COMMUNITY SHIELD • VIRGIL • MILNER • GOMEZ • WIN THE PEP LIJNDERS BOOK • ANFIELD ROAD

LIVERPOOL FC



Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine

LFC Mag Sep 22 £4.95

09

9 771478 304174

liverpoolfc.com

IMAGINE BEING US

CAN THE REDS WIN MORE SILVER THIS SEASON?

YESSS!

CONTENTS

VIRGIL'S SHIELD
On the ground at the FA Community Shield and getting all the reaction from VVD 08

THAT'S THE DRILL
Tough training sessions in the sun before the real fun starts for season 2022/23 18

ANFIELD OPENERS
The first home game of the season has never disappointed in the Jürgen Klopp era 26

JOE GOMEZ
The centre-half explains why he's delighted to stay with the Reds and fight for more honours 36

PEP LIJNDERS
The absolute book for every Liverpool fan, and here Pep explains how it all happened 44



TRUSS CAMPAIGN
Never mind the politics – it's all about the latest stage of the Anfield Road expansion 52

DAVID MOORES
A tribute to the former LFC chairman and life-president who was always a fan at heart 58

JAMES MILNER
"Last season that will only make us all even hungrier for more success, to be honest" 62

ACADEMY & WOMEN
Who's heading out on loan, who's just signed in, who's extending their stay...it's all here 70

NEIL MELLOR
Our columnist on the impact Darwin Nunez can have in his first season with the Reds 98

Reach Sport
Editor David Cottrell
Assistant Editor William Hughes
Writer Chris McLoughlin
Production Editor
Michael McGuinness
Design Colin Sumpter, Lee Ashun
Contributors Dave Ball, Ged Rea
Photography Getty Images, Alamy, Mirrorpix, Liverpool Echo, John Powell, Andrew Powell, Nicholas Taylor
© Liverpool Football Club & Athletic Grounds Ltd.
Published by Reach Sport Managing Director Steve Hanrahan
Commercial Director Will Beedles Executive Art Editor Rick Cooke Executive Editor Paul Dove
Marketing & Communications Manager Claire Brown
Printed by William Gibbons
Email liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com
To subscribe visit www.reachsportshop.com



HE'S A LAD FROM PORTUGAL...

And he's in it for the long term, don't you know! Hot on the heels of Mo Salah's contract extension comes Diogo Jota's own new commitment to Liverpool FC – and the dynamic forward couldn't be happier.

"Really proud, I have to say," he told LFCTV. "Obviously since I arrived two years ago I established myself as an important player in this team – that's what I wanted from the beginning. Now, signing a new long-term deal, from the club's perspective it's proof of the belief in myself as a player.

"For me, obviously it's really good to establish [that] I'll be here for a while. So, the beginning of a new season, let's do it."

The 25-year-old, who scored 34 times in his opening two seasons with the Reds, added: "I think Liverpool at the moment is one of the best if not the best. We were close last year to winning the Champions League. That's [something] all the players want. Hopefully we can give it a good go this year again.

"When you fight for everything, like we did last year, you just want to do it again and to do it better, because it's possible. That drive is in me and I know it's in my team-mates and all the staff. We have everything to fight for those titles out there."

Manager Jürgen Klopp was delighted too, telling the club website: "What Diogo has brought to this team and this club since he arrived is there for all to see, so it is really good news that he has signed a new contract.

"His qualities are obvious. He scores goals – not a bad quality – he works unbelievably hard for the team, his pressing and counter-pressing are on an unbelievable level, he can play in all of our attacking roles and he has an incredible attitude.

"Not a bad package, not bad at all."







BORN IN THE 90'S.
The New Nike Flight Ball.
NIKE
Premier League
OFFICIAL MATCH BALL OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE
2022 - 2023
Premier League



CORNER TAKEN QUICKLY



Just like Barcelona in 2019, the page where you don't know what to expect...

LFC South American XI (3-4-3)

Alisson (Brazil)
Fabinho (Brazil)
Lucas (Brazil)
Fabio Aurelio (Brazil)
Philippe Coutinho (Brazil)
Javier Mascherano (Argentina)
Roberto Firmino (Brazil)
Maxi Rodriguez (Argentina)
Darwin Nunez (Uruguay)
Luis Suarez (Uruguay)
Luis Diaz (Colombia)

OUR LADS HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE PLACE

Calvin Ramsay (Aberdeen, Scotland)

Don and Dee sound like an old Scottish couple but are actually the names of two rivers that meet the North Sea, around which the northeastern port city of Aberdeen was built.

Inhabited by humans for over 8,000 years, it's Scotland's third biggest city with a population of just under 200,000 – although that number decreased by one when Calvin Ramsay signed for Liverpool this summer.

Nicknamed the 'Granite City' due to many of the buildings being made of, er, a light coloured rock, Aberdeen has 45 parks and gardens but is also statistically the coldest city in the UK. So take a scarf and gloves if you ever go sunbathing there.

Home to the sixth-oldest golf club in the world and five-times Scottish champions Aberdeen FC, there's a link between Calvin's home city and his team-mate Luis Diaz.

Back in 2016, Aberdeen was twinned with the Colombian city of Barranquilla where, also in 2016, Diaz began his football career with Barranquilla FC.

Could be one for the lads to chat about over a 'rowie' – a local savoury delicacy best described as a flat croissant – although if Calvin speaks the Aberdeenshire dialect of 'doric' they're both gonna need translators!



RANDOM CHANT OF THE MONTH

And I like it, I like it,
I like it, I like it,
I li-li-like it, li-li-like,
Here we go-oh,
Salah scored ten in a row!



BLAGGING IT

One of these facts about a former Reds striker's drinking habits is true, water load of old frappé the other two are. Can you wake up and smell the coffee?

- *Mario Balotelli had a set of espresso cups imported from Italy and delivered to Melwood because he thought the cups there were too big.*
- *Fabio Borini had his own Italian coffee machine installed at Melwood because he didn't enjoy the taste of the coffee on offer.*
- *Iago Aspas had a Spanish water cooler introduced at Melwood because he didn't like the particular brand of bottled water used by LFC.*

Answer: It sounds like the kind of thing Mario Balotelli would do...but it was Fabio Borini who had his own coffee machine installed, which caused an issue as the Melwood staff struggled to acquire the right capsules for it! Super Mario had no issue with the Melwood crockery and any suggestions that Aspas didn't like the bottled water is a crock of, er, is untrue!

MOST APPEARANCES AGAINST LFC BY LFC PLAYERS

28: Joe Cole
27: John Wark
27: Paul Ince
25: Steve Ogrizovic
25: Peter Crouch
24: James Milner
24: Gary McAllister
24: Nicolas Anelka
23: Mark Wright

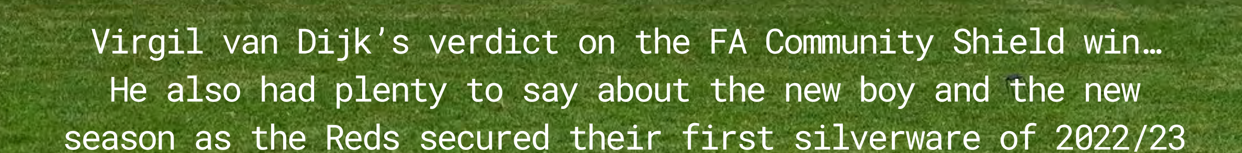


“TODAY WAS





A BIG ONE”



Virgil van Dijk’s verdict on the FA Community Shield win… He also had plenty to say about the new boy and the new season as the Reds secured their first silverware of 2022/23

Words: Chris McLoughlin

From Wembley Way in May to Filbert Way in August, the venue may have been different but the outcome was still the same. Liverpool won and Jordan Henderson lifted another trophy.

The FA Community Shield is the seventh different piece of silverware that Hendo has raised to the skies wearing the skipper's armband, but this time his trophy-lift came in the rather different surroundings of Leicester's King Power Stadium.

Wembley was unavailable to hold the traditional season curtain-raiser, instead hosting England's Lionesses as they brilliantly beat Germany in the Women's Euros final the following day, and with a friendly arranged at Old Trafford and Villa Park taken over by the Commonwealth Games rugby tournament, all roads led to the East Midlands. And it had to be accessed by road with numerous trains not running due to strike-action.

Opened in 2002, and initially named after a brand of crisps promoted by hometown legend Gary Lineker, the King Power Stadium was built on the banks of the River Soar, just 350 yards down the road from Leicester City's old Filbert Street home.

Hemmed in by terraced houses, the turnstiles to the old East Stand away-end were next to no53 Filbert Street with visiting supporters passing underneath a couple of mid-terrace flats and walking between the backyards of the neighbouring properties to reach their seats.

Between 1895 and 2001, the Reds played 47 times at Filbert Street, including a 1-0 defeat in the 1971 Charity Shield against Leicester, with some of the more memorable games including Patrik Berger scoring his first Liverpool goals there in 1996 and Robbie Fowler netting a hat-trick in 2001.

Filbert Street is now a car-park, used for matchday traffic, but a man who scored three times there for Liverpool found himself on the King Power Stadium pitch ahead of the Community Shield.

Ian Rush was invited by the Football Association to attend as Liverpool's ambassador with Mike Summerbee on duty for Manchester City. The pair were asked for their pre-match predictions as kick-off approached

"Three-one to Liverpool," replied Rushie to huge cheers from the 12,000 travelling Kopites, located mainly behind the North Stand goal where their banners included 'IMAGINE BEING US', 'LIVERPOOL WAS MADE FOR ME' and 'IT'S BOSS BEING A RED'.

"Four-one to City," countered a chuckling Summerbee to the approval of City's travelling contingent in the King Power Kop (shouldn't that have been our end?) before *You'll Never Walk Alone* rang out followed by *Blue Moon*.

The players soon emerged from the tunnel and lined up to be introduced to the FA's first female Chair, Debbie Hewitt, and the two club ambassadors. A handshake usually suffices during such formalities, but when Luis Diaz saw Rushie in front of him he bowed.

With the ceremonial procedures completed, both sets of teams ran towards their own fans with goalkeeper Adrian, clutching his trademark yellow towel, receiving a huge round of applause from those in Red.




Exped
RESP
TULAT ONS




Standard Chartered


Standard Chartered

It wasn't long before the players traded shots – Mo Salah hitting the side-netting and Kevin De Bruyne hitting the brick wall that is Virgil van Dijk – on the pitch and the supporters traded songs in the stands. "Campione, Campione, ole ole ole!" chanted the Cityzens. "Where's your European Cups?" responded the travelling Kop.

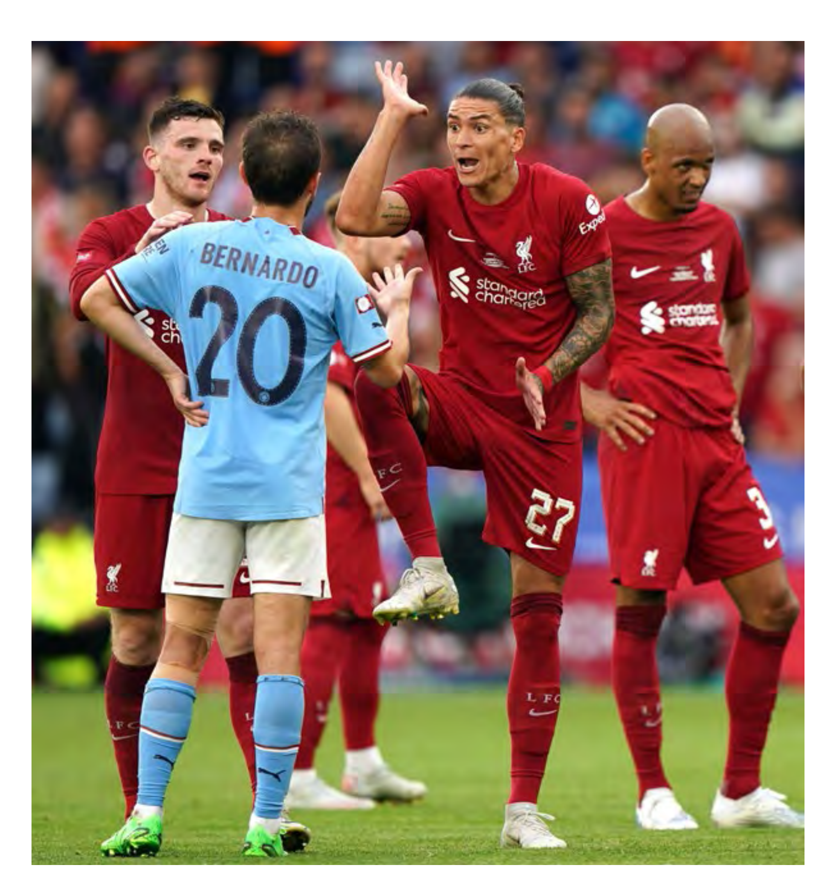
Then, in the 21st minute, Trent Alexander-Arnold silenced one end of the stadium when he beautifully clipped a Salah pass goalwards. The ball glanced off the head of Nathan Ake as it curled away from the diving Ederson and flew in off the inside of the far post. One-nil Liverpool and 'The Scouser in our team' echoed around the King Power.

Such was the intensity and pace of the match you'd have sworn it was a cup final rather than a curtain-raiser and when Darwin Nunez emerged from the bench to warm up in front of the Liverpool fans in the 32nd minute a new chant was born. 'Nunez! Nunez! Nunez!' bellowed Kopites in a throwback to the old 'Souness! Souness! Souness!' shout from the 1970s and 80s.

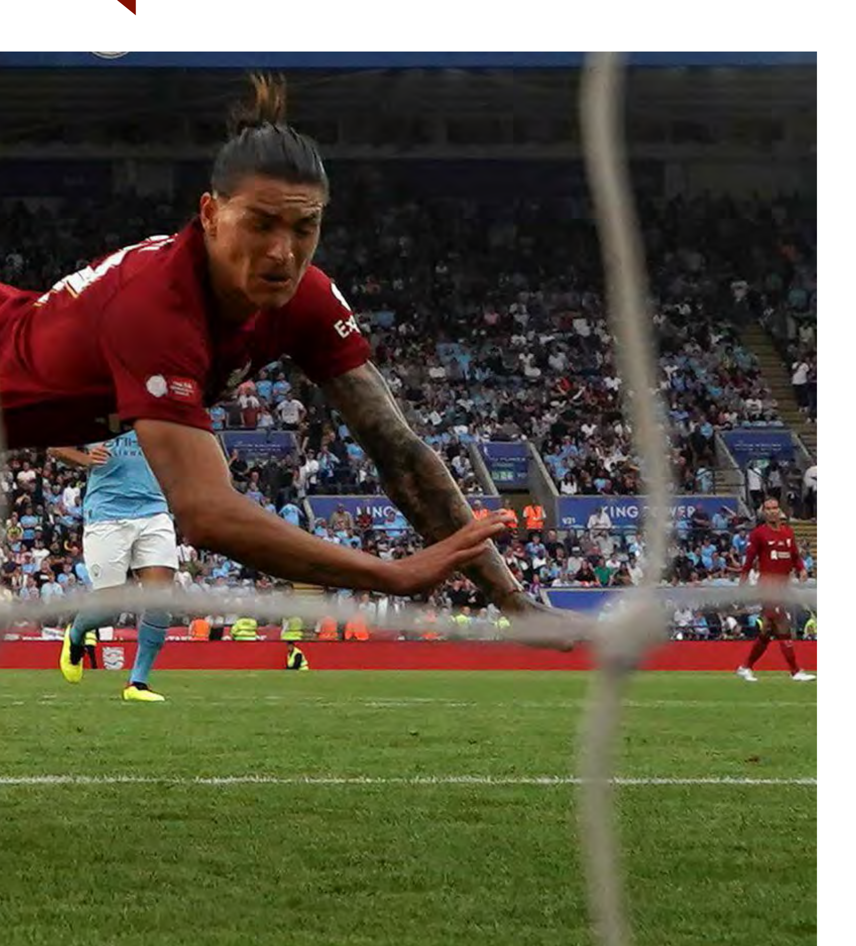
Moments later, Thiago had the cheers ringing in his ears when he left Rodri on the turf as he turned away from him, cut back past De Bruyne and then nutmegged Rodri – one of his best mates – for good measure when he got back up to challenge him.

Erling Braut Haaland, anonymous for 30 minutes, then forced Adrian into a save, but the Reds left the pitch at half-time a goal ahead. City started the better in the second half, but the 58th minute arrival of Nunez for Bobby Firmino changed everything.

The Uruguayan had been on the pitch for little over a minute when he raced onto an Andy Robertson through-ball and was brought down by Ederson. Penalt…up went the offside flag to end those shouts.



'NUNEZ! NUNEZ! NUNEZ!' CHANTED KOPITES VOCIFEROUSLY AND WHEN THE WILD CELEBRATIONS FINALLY SUBSIDED HE GOT TWO THINGS: A BOOKING FOR TAKING HIS SHIRT OFF AND A KLOPP HUG. WHAT A TREBLE THAT WAS



Five minutes later Darwin was in again, this time courtesy of a Jordan Henderson pass, but Ederson took Nunez's shot flush in the mush and needed treatment after making the save.

After that came a reminder that if you don't finish City off they can hit you with a sucker-punch. Luis Diaz was tackled, De Bruyne lifted a pass to Phil Foden and although Adrian initially made a save, the ball squirmed loose when he and Foden challenged for it, allowing debutant substitute Julian Alvarez to poke home. The assistant referee's flag went up for offside, but VAR concluded that Foden was onside and the goal was given. One-one.

Ten minutes from full-time, VAR had to intervene again. James Milner won possession, Nunez and Salah combined and when Salah crossed for Nunez to head goalwards, Ruben Dias blocked the ball with his hand.

It looked like a cast-iron penalty, but referee Craig Pawson said no. Play continued amidst howls of derision until the man from Stockley Park had a word in Pawson's ear. Off he trotted to the pitchside monitor and after reviewing the evidence it was time to draw an imaginary rectangle and point to the spot.

As City's players protested, and Dias went into the book, Thiago and Harvey Elliott stood between them and Salah, Liverpool's penalty-taker, to stop any shenanigans from distracting him. Salah stayed calm and smashed his spot-kick low to Ederson's left. Two-one Liverpool, and the best was still to come.

Fabio Carvalho came on in the 90th minute to make his Reds

WE ENJOY PLAYING AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND THIS WAS DEFINITELY ABOUT BEING THE HIGHEST LEVEL. IT WAS AN INTENSE GAME, AN OPEN GAME AT TIMES AND IT WAS GOOD FOR US TO GET THE WIN, VERY IMPORTANT



debut and four minutes into stoppage-time he was celebrating a momentous goal scored by Liverpool's no27. Carvalho won possession, exchanged passes with Naby Keita and fed Salah. He crossed from the right for Robertson to head back across goal to Nunez, who threw himself at the ball to beat Ederson with a diving header. Three-one Liverpool. Silverware secured.

Without wishing to overstate the noise in the North Stand when the ball hit the net, the roof almost came off. Nunez whipped off his shirt in celebration to reveal his tattooed torso and ran to the corner flag where he was mobbed by his teammates.

'NUNEZ! NUNEZ! NUNEZ!' chanted Kopites vociferously and when the wild celebrations finally subsided he got two things: a booking for taking his shirt off and a Klopp hug. What a treble that was.

It was the Uruguayan's name that rang out again shortly before full-time when Haaland missed a sitter at the other end, firing the ball off the crossbar and over with an empty goal gaping. Even the Norwegian couldn't help but smile at that one.

So it turns out Ian Rush is as good at scoreline predictions as

he was at goalscoring and when the full-time whistle blew Nunez dropped to his knees with both arms raised to savour a special moment in his career. He was only the fifth substitute to score on his Liverpool debut, the most recent being Luis Suarez.

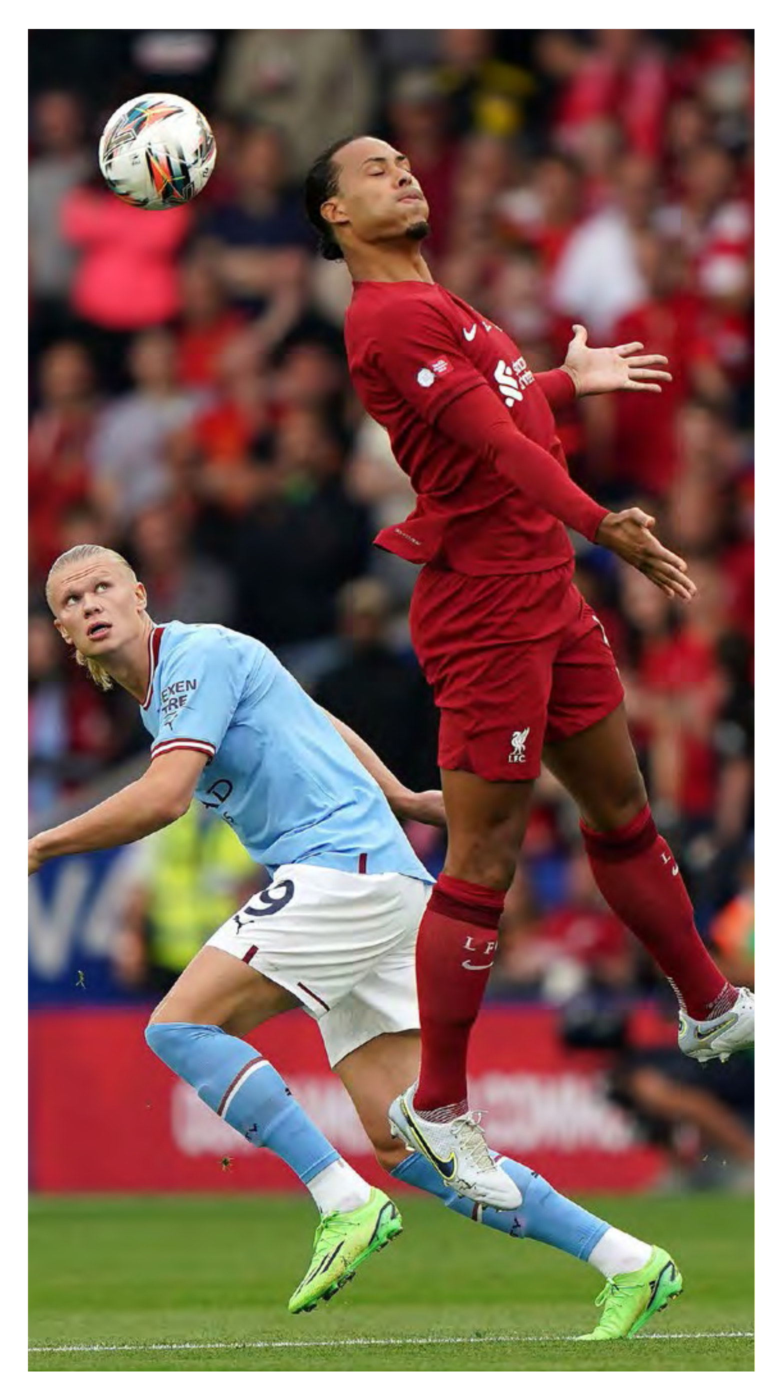
In the stands, the City end emptied while the travelling Kop sang along to Bob Marley's *Three Little Birds* before things got ramped up with Pitbull's *Don't Stop The Party* blaring out over the PA system.

While the on-pitch podium was being constructed, Klopp signed a heavily-tattooed supporter's leg, gave three fist-pumps on the request of the travelling Kop and Robertson had his pitchside interview drowned out by Kopites singing 'Oh Andy, Andy…'

Then it was time for more winners' medals to be hung around the necks of the Liverpool players before Hendo shuffled his feet and lifted the FA Community Shield. Another one for the collection.

The celebrations continued with *One Kiss*, *Show Me Love* and *You'll Never Walk Alone* being sung by supporters and players alike as those dressed in red posed for on-pitch photos with a piece of silverware that hasn't been brought back to Anfield since 2006.







Afterwards, in a corridor just off the King Power stadium tunnel close to the dressing-rooms, Virgil van Dijk spoke to the assembled members of the press in the mixed zone.

"It was an interesting week," he said. "We were in Austria training yesterday still so it was still part of the pre-season camp.

"Obviously we knew it was going to be a very tough game because they're reigning champions and a tough opponent. Both teams are very intense to play against and it wasn't any different this time.

"We enjoy playing at the highest level and this was definitely about being the highest level. It was an intense game, an open game at times and it was good for us to get the win, very important."

Inevitably the name on every press-person's lips was Darwin Nunez. Amid several questions about him and Haaland, Virgil was asked what the 23-year-old brings to Liverpool?

"You can see he's direct, makes runs in behind, he's quick, he's strong," said our centre-half, our number four. "I've said before that he's the modern day striker and Haaland is the same. Both have similar attributes. Today he showed that – he comes on at a time where there was a bit of fatigue and was able to cause them problems. He gets the goal and also wins the handball.

"We'll help him in some ways and make sure he's comfortable, he's calm, he just works and he doesn't focus on what the outside world has to say because everyone needs to say something these days. So head down, work, score goals hopefully and be important for Liverpool."

Virgil's 'outside world' mention related to the social-media stick that Nunez received after missing a chance against Manchester United in Thailand on his pre-season debut. The Liverpool lads took a dim view of the ridiculous criticism of a player who, don't forget, is younger than Alexander-Arnold, Ibou Konate and Caoimhin Kelleher, after one half-hour run out and it strengthened their resolve to look after Darwin.

"I don't speak Spanish so I'm not saying anything to him at the moment," smiled Van Dijk, "but we have plenty of Spanish speakers in the team and I know for a fact that they help him.

"I don't see anything that bothers him at the moment, but people



YOU CAN'T LOOK INTO THE FUTURE BUT WE WON TODAY AND NOW WE FOCUS ON THE LEAGUE. WE'RE EXCITED TO SEE WHAT THE YEAR HOLDS

have something to say – and there are so many platforms to do it – so it can hit you, but it shouldn't.

"I don't think he needs to be looking at all the things you guys have to say about any game that he plays. He has to focus on himself, the team, improve and get settled in as quickly as possible.

"He has to learn from training, learn from the games and don't look at what others have to say about you. That's the key to success and to perform and I think he will be fine – don't get distracted by it."

On the evidence of his 32-minute appearance against City, Nunez won't take long at all to settle in life at Liverpool. But as Van Dijk pointed out, scoring goals isn't his only task when he's leading the frontline.

"We play in a way that as a striker you do a lot of defending as well and that's something for strikers to learn. Bobby has mastered it and is one of the best in that position.

"For him to learn from Bobby, but also to bring his own qualities into the game as well with his runs in-behind, it's nice to mix it up and good to have those qualities as well; work defenders as we defend from the front, win the ball higher. If not, he has to run back.

"It was a good start today, but it's only the start, hopefully for us many more to come. We're all confident in him so just enjoy the group, enjoy the club, because we are very blessed to play for Liverpool."

Before heading off to join his team-mates and a rather large silver shield on the team bus, Virgil was asked if Liverpool can repeat last season's consistency and challenge for all four major honours? "You can't look into the future," he replied. "It's a boring answer, but we know, for example, two years ago we had so many injuries and those are part of football as well. Hopefully it will be a successful season and better than last season, but we'll focus on the games.

"Today was a big one. We won and now we focus on the league. We're excited to crack on and to see what the year holds."

After seeing the Reds beat Manchester City 3-1 to lift the Community Shield with Darwin Nunez scoring on his debut it's fair to say he won't find any of us disagreeing. And who knows, maybe it'll be from Filbert Way in August to Wembley Way in May…


LFC
AXA
66
LFC
AXA

THE HARD YARDS

Before the Reds returned to the AXA Training Centre there was training camp...and while pre-season can be brutal these boys knew it was necessary and launched into the hard work




Here to support you too
From Car, Home and Business Insurance, to Health and Wellbeing. You can be confident we're behind you every step of the way, just as we are with Liverpool FC.
Visit axa.co.uk to see how we can help you.
Know You Can
AXA
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
Official Training Partner



Ouch! Bobby gets the ear-flicking treatment from Thiago and co

"Hmm, so maybe a cross-shot on 21 minutes that takes a slight deflection on its way past Ederson…"

Luis flights one in...and yes, Ibou really is that big



The Fabulous Flying Ali making it look so easy as usual

Y'know, this is really Kirkby and those magnificent mountains are actually just a giant cardboard cut-out



Darwin's going to be nodding one of these into the net at the King Power soon…







"Wonder if I've got time to gate-crash the Tour de France…"



Naby shaping up to fire off one his sensational volleys

Good to be back! You can tell how much the boss and the boys were relishing business as usual

IT'S ALL KICKING OFF

First home game of the season, a buzz of anticipation in the air – let's look at the six previous Anfield openers under the management of Jürgen Klopp all with one common denominator: victory



FULL HOUSE FEELING

Liverpool 2 Burnley 0
Saturday 21 August 2021

Goals from Diogo Jota and Sadio Mane helped Liverpool make it two Premier League wins from two as they followed up an opening-day win at Norwich City with a solid display against the Clarets.

Captain Jordan Henderson returned to the starting line-up after missing the victory at Carrow Road, while teenage midfielder Harvey Elliott also impressed on his first Premier League start. Some 528 days after the club had last welcomed a capacity crowd, for the Champions League match with Atletico Madrid, it was a packed Anfield that witnessed Jota open the scoring in the 18th minute when he headed past Nick Pope from Kostas Tsimikas' cross for his second goal in as many games.

Mo Salah had the ball in the back of the net eight minutes later, but it was ruled out by the video assistant referee as the Egyptian was deemed to be offside in the build-up. But Burnley's brave defence were beaten again with just over 20 minutes remaining through a superb strike from Mane.

Van Dijk's long diagonal ball picked out Elliott in a wide position and he chested it down before finding Trent Alexander-Arnold. The right-back clipped a first-time pass into the box for Mane to fire past Pope as he opened his tally for the new season with his 75th league goal for the Reds.

Earlier there had been a minute's applause for lifelong supporter Andrew Devine, the 97th victim of the Hillsborough tragedy. Fans on the Kop held up a mosaic with the number 97, as Henderson laid a wreath to remember the 55-year-old, who had died in July, over three decades after suffering life-changing injuries in the disaster.






MANE
10


SPREAD EX
Sports

SALAH ON THE SPOT

Liverpool 4 Leeds United 3
Saturday 12 September 2020

Mo Salah became the first player to score on the opening day in four consecutive league seasons but the Reds needed his late penalty to ensure victory in this seven-goal thriller. Leeds head coach Marcelo Bielsa had said that his promoted side would not change their adventurous game in the Premier League and it made for a hugely entertaining spectacle.

With the game played behind-closed-doors due to the COVID-19 pandemic, fans watching at home would have been glued to their television screens.

The first half-hour produced a couple of goals for both sides. Salah put the Reds in front with a fifth-minute penalty after defender Robin Koch had handled his shot but winger Jack Harrison soon fired Leeds level.

Virgil van Dijk headed in Andy Robertson's corner to restore Liverpool's advantage but they were pegged back again when Leeds, back in the top-flight after a 16-year absence, equalised again this time through striker Patrick Bamford.

Salah rifled in a ferocious third for the hosts in the 33rd minute to give them a 3-2 lead at the break but the Yorkshire side looked like leaving Anfield with a point when midfielder Mateusz Klich produced a wonderful first touch and volley to beat Alisson with 66 minutes on the clock.

Both sides pressed for a winner but the opportunity to claim the three points fell to the Reds when Fabinho was floored in the box by a clumsy challenge from substitute Rodrigo.

Salah, Liverpool's star performer, stepped up and again converted from the spot, becoming the first Red to score an opening day hat-trick since John Aldridge back in 1988/89.











CHAMPIONS ELECT

Liverpool 4 Norwich City 1
Friday 9 August 2019

An incident-packed Friday-night fixture saw the Reds make a solid start to a season which would end in them being crowned Premier League champions for the first time.

Jürgen Klopp's men raced into a four-goal lead by the half-time interval but the evening didn't go all Liverpool's way. Goalkeeper Alisson Becker was injured just before half-time which resulted in an early debut for summer recruit Adrian.

The hosts were unable to add to their tally after the break and there was a consolation goal for Daniel Farke's promoted Canaries with Finland international striker Teemu Pukki finding the net.

By then, however, the damage had been done. Defender Grant Hanley sliced Divock Origi's cross into his own goal after just seven minutes and when Mo Salah scored on the opening day for a third successive season, Liverpool had a firm grip on the game before the 20-minute mark.

Virgil van Dijk made it three when he headed home Salah's corner and Origi – one of the Reds' Champions League heroes in Madrid a couple of months earlier – glanced home the fourth three minutes before the interval from Trent Alexander-Arnold's delicious cross.

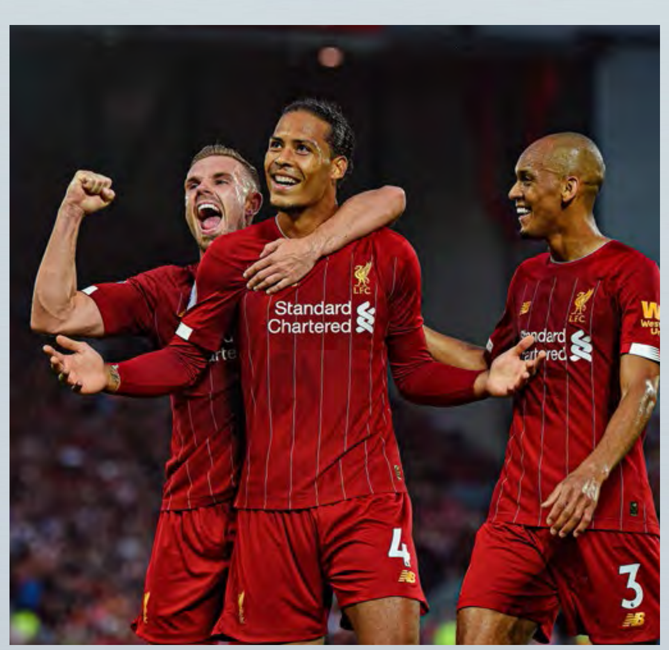
"For 60 minutes we looked very sharp, then we had to control the game a bit more," said Klopp afterwards. "Norwich have all my respect – they stayed cheeky, they enjoyed their football.

"At the start of the second half we could have scored a fifth or sixth goal, then Norwich scored. After that we were never in danger but had to work hard to keep the score what it was."



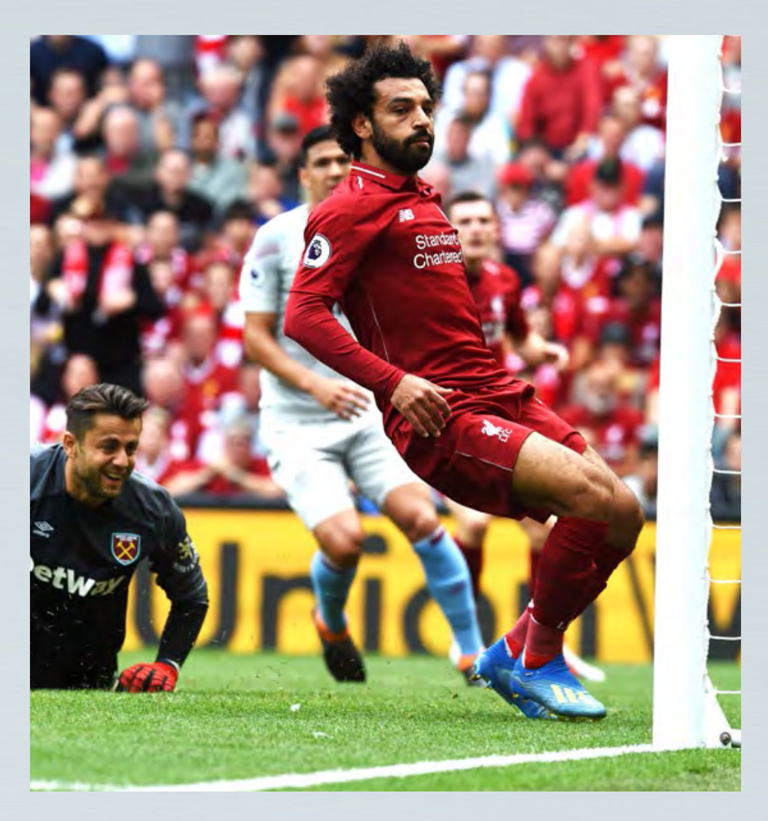








FANTASTIC FOUR
Liverpool 4 West Ham United 0
Sunday 12 August 2018



Goalkeeper Alisson Becker and midfielders Naby Keita and Xherdan Shaqiri made their Liverpool debuts but it was a couple of familiar faces who helped the Reds make a flying start.

Mohamed Salah, fully fit again after his injury in the Champions League final against Real Madrid a few months earlier, opened the scoring with his 29th goal in as many Premier League games, a back-post tap-in following fine work by Keita and Andy Robertson.

Like Salah, Sadio Mane proved he too can be a reliable source of goals and he scored twice, either side of the break – hat-tips to James Milner and Roberto Firmino for fine assists – to put Liverpool in command against Manuel Pellegrini's Hammers.

Substitute Daniel Sturridge offered a reminder that he too knew his way to the back of the net, nudging in the fourth just seconds after replacing Salah as a late substitute. It helped Liverpool record their biggest opening-day win at Anfield for 86 years.

"We know about our expectations and we know there is a really positive atmosphere around us, that is good," said Klopp.

"But this season will be unbelievably hard. We didn't win anything since I was in so we have to invest more, we have to fight more and then we will see where it leads."



MAIN MANE
Liverpool 1 Crystal Palace 0
Saturday 19 August 2017

The last time Palace came to Anfield for the Reds' opening home league game they made things extremely difficult. Frank de Boer did not last long in his role of head coach of the Eagles but his well-organised side showed great discipline as Liverpool struggled to break them down.

Sadio Mane came up with the moment that mattered with 17 minutes remaining. Palace midfielder Luka Milijojevic was pressed by home substitute Dominic Solanke and a couple of poor touches presented Mane with an opportunity to sweep the ball beyond goalkeeper Wayne Hennessey from close-range at the Kop end.

Palace had squandered good chances of their own, notably when Liverpool old boy Christian Benteke failed to score after being teed up by a fine run and cut-back by on-loan midfielder Ruben Loftus-Cheek. Otherwise, Liverpool looked solid with Andy Robertson making an impressive debut at left-back.

After the game, Klopp hailed the impact of his match-winner. "The biggest thing the team did last year was getting fourth [position] without Sadio for pretty much half-a-year.

"I wasn't sure how long it was exactly but it was long. He's made a big step, but as you can imagine I'm not too happy about singing a big song about a player this early in the season. But he is important."

STANDS TO REASON
Liverpool 4 Leicester City 1
Saturday 16 September 2016

Due to building work being completed on the expanded Main Stand, the first home game of the 2016/17 season didn't take place until September. With final safety checks being made, the Reds had played their first three fixtures of the campaign away from home.

Champions Leicester City provided the opposition for Liverpool's biggest league attendance at Anfield since May 1977 with 53,075 watching them take on Claudio Ranieri's side.

Roberto Firmino scored the first goal in front of the new-look stand, breaking the deadlock after only 13 minutes from James Milner's pinpoint pass.

The 20,000 fans in the £115 million new stand purred with delight when the Reds doubled their advantage just after the half-hour. Jordan Henderson picked out Daniel Sturridge with a superbly weighted pass and the striker unselfishly backheeled for the effervescent Sadio Mane to slot the ball home.

Jamie Vardy pulled a goal back for the Foxes before the interval but Liverpool found an extra gear after the break.

Adam Lallana restored the two-goal cushion 11 minutes after the restart when he rifled in a fine effort for the Reds' 100th goal in 57 games under Klopp.

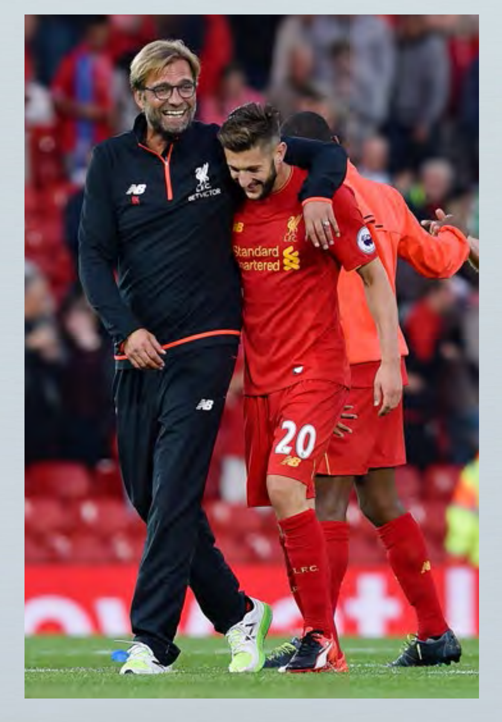
Firmino then wrapped things up late on after Mane raced onto another fine pass from Henderson before rounding keeper Kasper Schmeichel and unselfishly squaring for the Brazilian to net his second of the game.

"What we did today is what I expect from us," said Klopp afterwards. "I am really on the side of the players. They are responsible for our good performances and I am responsible for our bad performances. That is an easy deal.

"We have to see how often we can show it. This league is so unbelievably strong, so competitive and today we were good. We need to perform and have atmospheres like this not only against the champions or when we score four goals. We have to create our own atmosphere for ourselves and nobody else."











STAYING POWER

New deal freshly agreed, defender Joe Gomez explains what makes this club so special and why more good times are surely on their way





Reds fans were delighted when Joe Gomez signed a new long-term contract with the club last month. The defender put pen to paper on the deal at the AXA Training Centre to extend his seven-year spell with the Reds into the coming seasons.

Gomez moved to Anfield from Charlton Athletic in the summer of 2015 and has since made 142 appearances, claiming winner's medals in the Champions League, Premier League, Emirates FA Cup, Carabao Cup, UEFA Super Cup and FIFA Club World Cup.

After signing on the dotted line, the 25-year-old spoke to liverpoolfc.com about his decision to commit his future to the club and here is what the England international had to say…

CONGRATULATIONS, JOE, A NEW LONG-TERM DEAL AT LIVERPOOL – HOW DOES IT FEEL TO GET IT DONE?

It's obviously a special moment for me and my family, another one that you dream of as a kid and one I don't take for granted. It is an unbelievable place to be – in my eyes, probably one of the best if not the best club in the world at the minute. The opportunity to extend my stay here was an easy decision to make, really.



I HAVE HAD SUCH A GOOD ENVIRONMENT TO GROW, NOT JUST AS A FOOTBALLER BUT AS A MAN. THERE ARE OBVIOUSLY TIMES WHERE I HAVE TO LOOK BACK AND TAKE THE LESSONS FROM AND GROW FROM, BUT THERE ARE ALSO GREAT MEMORIES. I AM REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE FUTURE AND WHAT IS TO COME

AT THE AGE OF 25 YOU COULD ARGUE THE BEST YEARS ARE STILL IN FRONT OF YOU AS WELL. DOES THAT PLAY A BIG PART IN SIGNING A DEAL LIKE THIS?

Yeah, for sure. Obviously I have been here quite a while now, but in the grand scheme of things I still feel young and, like you say, the best years are ahead of me.

I have got more to learn and the time to do that. I think I have the platform here to do it with the manager and the coaching staff around me and my team-mates, to make sure the best years are ahead.

YOU WERE A TEENAGER WHEN YOU FIRST SIGNED HERE. IF ALL GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN, WE COULD EVEN BE TALKING ABOUT TESTIMONIALS. IS THAT YOUR HOPE, THAT YOU'RE AT LIVERPOOL FOR THE LONG TERM?

For sure. That's an aim of mine and I am grateful to have the opportunity to spend this many years here at a club like this. There have been great memories and challenges too, but that's a big thing for me – the opportunity to stay here and create more history with the lads, and be a big part of it.

That's my aim and to hopefully come away with a career I can look at and be proud of as a Liverpool player the whole time.

WHAT HAS CHANGED FROM A CLUB PERSPECTIVE SINCE YOU JOINED?

A lot. I guess the gaffer came in pretty early into my journey here and we've lived through it with the supporters and as a team. Some unbelievable team-mates have joined and [we've had] success.

The belief within the team and the experience that has come with the finals and the trophies have probably helped evolve the team, the mentality within the team and the belief within the city. That's credit to the management and the gaffer.

It's been a joy to have been a part of that journey, but I think the main thing is I am definitely hungry to play a big part in what's to come – and the team is to keep on progressing and not dwell on what's been achieved.

WHAT'S CHANGED ABOUT YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL? WE OFTEN DON'T SEE THE STRUGGLES, WE SEE THE GOOD TIMES AND HOW BRILLIANT IT MUST BE PLAYING AT THE TOP LEVEL, BUT THERE HAVE BEEN STRUGGLES ALONG THE WAY ON YOUR JOURNEY…

Definitely. I wouldn't change them. They have been tough, tough times and early on, from the get-go in my first year, I had a big test. I've had some big ones since then, but I wouldn't change [it]. I think those challenges and this club have shaped me into the man I am today. I came as a teenager and that's something I am thankful for.

I have had such a good environment to grow, not just as a footballer but as a man. There are obviously times where I have to look back and take the lessons from and grow from, but there are also great memories. I am really excited about the future and what is to come.



> THE GAFFER IS, I THINK, THE BEST IN THE WORLD. HE HAS BEEN A MASSIVE PART OF MY LIFE, NOT JUST AS A MANAGER BUT AS A MAN. HE TEACHES US ALL PRINCIPLES OUTSIDE OF FOOTBALL EACH DAY IN THE WAY HE CARRIES HIMSELF AND THE WAY HE IS AS A PERSON

NATURALLY YOU WILL BE DISAPPOINTED YOU DIDN'T PLAY AS MUCH AS YOU WOULD HAVE WANTED TO LAST SEASON, SO HOW DO YOU APPROACH THAT GOING INTO A NEW CAMPAIGN?

Obviously it was off the back of a year that was tough for me. I came into pre-season in a place where I knew I kind of had to find my feet again and the boys did well. It is not something I am going to ignore and act as if I didn't want to play more, but my hunger is there.

I did my best to apply myself throughout the year and the coaches were aware of that. I definitely tried to be the best team-mate I could be for the boys in a supportive sense but also pushing them and trying to compete. I think the big thing this year is to take that challenge on.

It's obviously a decision I had to make and the result is that I want to fight for my place and be the best I can be. It is part-and-parcel of being at a club like this. We've arguably got the best players in the world, so that's going to raise my ceiling but also I have to try and push them and fight for my place. Essentially that is what this year is about for me.

THAT SAYS A LOT ABOUT YOU AS A PLAYER, AN INDIVIDUAL AND AN ELITE ATHLETE. YOU ACCEPT AT A MASSIVE CLUB THAT THE COMPETITION IS GOING TO BE INTENSE FOR EVERY POSITION…

That's all you want. I think that's why players are enticed to come here because you know you are going to be in the best environment against the best players each day. It is going to push you – and it has pushed me over the years, for sure.

The boys have helped me learn things I probably wouldn't have elsewhere, along with the gaffer as well. That's definitely my aim – I hope the best years are ahead of me and I am more determined than ever to make sure that's the case. It's a fresh start to try and attack the year.

YOU'VE MENTIONED THE MANAGER A COUPLE OF TIMES. HE IS A BIG PULL FOR NEW SIGNINGS TO COME HERE. IS IT THE SAME FOR THE PLAYERS THAT ARE ALREADY HERE, THAT HE HAS A HUGE INFLUENCE ON YOU AND THE DECISIONS YOU TAKE?

Massively. The gaffer is, I think, the best in the world. He has been a massive part of my life, not just as a manager but as a man. He teaches us all principles outside of football each day in the way he carries himself and the way he is as a person.

Having the opportunity to learn from him as a teenager until now has been great and I know there is a lot more I can learn from him, hence why I feel this is the best place for me to be.

I am definitely grateful for the lessons he has taught me throughout my time here, whether that be through injury or







through times when I've been doing well. He has always got the right balance, the right advice. I think that's why people want to come here and why those that are here – like me – want to stay.

YOU ADDED TWO TROPHIES TO THE CABINET LAST SEASON AND THE CHAMPIONS LEAGUE AND PREMIER LEAGUE CAME DOWN TO VERY FINE MARGINS. HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU THAT THIS STORY IS ALMOST AT ITS START POINT?
Very. I think we've strengthened this year in the summer. I'm sad to see Sadio go, but we've got a manager that is going to be here for a while now. As I said, [he is] if not the best in the world then I don't see who else is.

That gives us a platform to keep going and I think the main thing is the mentality within the team, there is no sign of resting on our laurels or feeling like we've accomplished all there is. The lads are hungrier than ever and to be a part of that is massive and I think the platform is there to have another successful season and fight on all fronts.

Obviously it was a disappointing end with the Champions League, but I don't think coming away from that there was an ounce of worry that we wouldn't be back there again. That's the goal, obviously.

IT WAS INTERESTING TO SEE THE CHANGE IN THE PLAYERS FROM WHEN THEY GOT ON THE BUS FOR THE PARADE TO WHEN YOU GOT OFF IT. YOU COULD SEE THE APPETITE IN THE FANS, YOU COULD SEE THE SIZE OF THE CLUB. WHAT DID THAT PARADE DO FOR YOU AS A GROUP OF PLAYERS?

I can't speak for the rest of the lads, but for me it definitely caught me by surprise. Again, it is a sign of why we want to be here as a team and why we are so blessed to be a part of this club.

I don't think there is another team in the world who could lose the final and come back to that sort of reception and support. I think many of us were quoted as saying it was one of the best days of our lives and we're not going to say that lightly. It was a special moment.

Again, times like that are a chance to reflect on what we have here at this club. To do that just spurs us on and it's why we want to play for the city and for the fans to give them more positive times in the same way they gave us that lift after what was a disappointing night.

YOU COULD HEAR THE PLAYERS SAYING THAT – WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU GET THAT KIND OF WELCOME FROM FANS?

Arguably nowhere. It is a special city and I think everyone who comes in knows that. Whenever we play at Anfield, we know that. Day in, day out, we all know we are in an incredibly fortunate position to be at a club like this. That was one of those moments that emphasised that.



WHAT DO YOU ENVISAGE COULD BE AHEAD FOR YOU INDIVIDUALLY AND ALSO FOR THIS TEAM THIS SEASON?
Obviously, individually it is to do all I can to help the team. To push myself on all fronts and hit the ground running. To participate more and do all I can to get the best out of myself and my team-mates.

As a group, the sky is the limit. We want to go one, if not two, better than last season and aim for it all. We definitely have the ability to do that and the belief is there. It's just about us taking it one game at a time, like we did last season, and just being true to ourselves, playing the way we play under the gaffer's guidance. Who's to say we can't go on to do more than we did last season?

"AN OUTSTANDING TALENT"

Liverpool manager Jürgen Klopp said the best of Joe Gomez is yet to come after the defender signed his new deal with the club.

Signed in the summer of 2015, the defender has made 142 appearances for the club to date – and Klopp is convinced he will bolster that tally significantly over the course of his new contract.

"Joe is an outstanding talent," said the boss. "He is also an outstanding defender and an outstanding human being. He has so many qualities, I could talk about them all day, so knowing that he will continue his journey with us is a massive boost – one that everyone who loves Liverpool FC and cares about its present and future should be unbelievably happy about.

"One of the many wonderful things about Joe is he has experience and youth – that's not a bad combination. He has not long turned 25 but he was at the club before I was and I think after Hendo and Milly he is our longest-serving player. Incredible. But the best thing of all is that his best years are still to come and I could not be happier that this will happen with us.

"In terms of right now, Joe is in phenomenal shape. We had a few weeks off and when I returned to AXA I saw him and my first thought was: wow! Physically he is in such a good place and now all he needs is a good pre-season and the rhythm that comes from this.

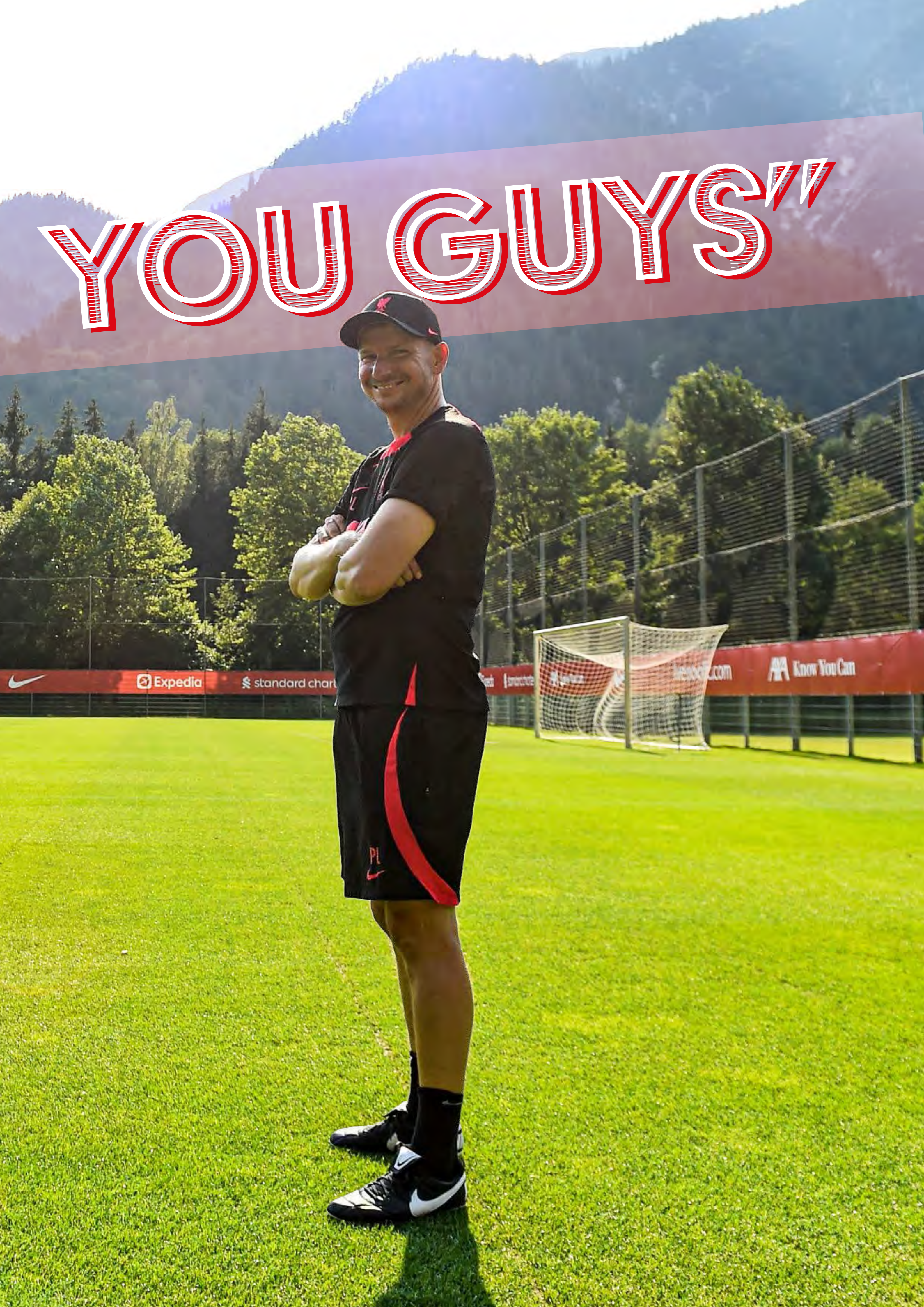
"Everything else is in place and I could not be happier that he will be staying with us for even longer."



'THIS IS FOR



It's the LFC book everyone's talking about, the definitive account of an extraordinary campaign written by assistant-manager Pep Lijnders with the club's head of editorial James Carroll, and here's how and why it happened


YOU GUYS”
Expedia
standard char
Know You Can

Interview: Sam Williams

FIRSTLY, PEP, CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE CONCEPT AND FORMAT OF *INTENSITY*?

First and foremost, it's a tribute to our team, the way we work, how we see football and how we see life. Secondly, it's to inspire all the people who love football. Hopefully it gives them real insight into how special Liverpool FC is, but also how special this period is. If you think you know Liverpool I think you still will be surprised!

The format is week-by-week, game-by-game through the whole season, telling the story of what happened before, during and after from our perspective, but in real time: the leadership, the vision, the emotion, the fight!

As I say in the book, I committed to doing this whatever happened during the season. I could not have predicted the season would turn out the way it did, but I felt something special was coming together.

HOW DID THE IDEA TO WRITE A BOOK COME ABOUT?

I always dreamt about writing a book, something life-lasting. Jürgen said so often, "You should write a book." In a season so much happens and many things will never be spoken about again, but these are the moments that especially define us – and now it is written down.

I'm proud of us, I'm proud of the hard work. The opportunity was right and the timing even better. The diary I did for the official website during the 28-day training camp last summer was the start and then we decided to take it to the next stage by documenting the whole season, regardless of what happened.

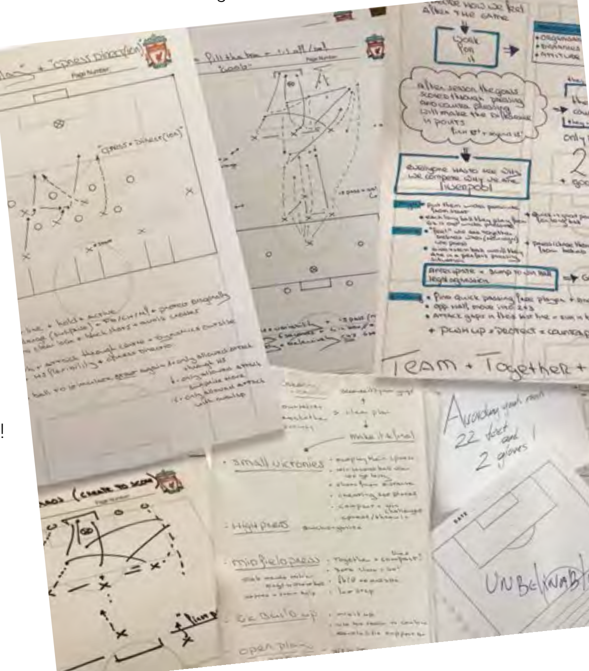
AND WHY DID YOU THINK IT WAS THE RIGHT TIME TO WRITE IT?

We were in Austria last summer and the season before hadn't gone to plan: injuries, disappointments, the fight to achieve Champions League qualification. We needed a new start. I felt it would become a do-or-die season, in life you have these periods where you feel it's now or never. Adversity can create a new start and exactly this happened, or at least that's how we felt during the last pre-season. The media were talking about us not signing anyone except Ibou but I was sure after our pre-season that we would achieve. The 28 days away gave me the belief.

DID YOU WRITE IT IN REAL TIME, LIKE A DIARY?

Yes, I wrote every day. After each game I would send a summary of the last three days to James, or we would meet in my office at the AXA Training Centre or on matchdays at the Titanic Hotel. He then added, adjusted, rewrote and made it whole. I would write everywhere: on the plane, at the kitchen table, behind my desk, after the famous team meetings while we travelled on the bus to games, even in the dressing-room.

To be honest, the process helped me to put everything straight in my mind, it gave me a good overview of everything and I really enjoyed the dedication it took! I realised quickly that it only works when you are really disciplined. Not one moment in our season went unnoticed or untouched and with time the process became easier.



YOU COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A MORE INTERESTING SEASON TO WRITE ABOUT...

Interesting for sure. I'm just so curious how people will read it, they will re-live this season from the insight and I truly hope they will be even prouder of LFC after reading it. Look, the tricky thing was that I didn't know how things would end while I was writing it...but you guys know how it ends, haha! And you know what's cool? We didn't change or add anything. So if you read something stupid it was stupid, and if you read something 'wow', it was 'wow'.

DID YOU SPEAK TO JÜRGEN AND OTHER COLLEAGUES BEFORE COMMITTING TO THE PROJECT?

With Jürgen of course, and he loved the idea. I think there are not many people who can write down his ideas or meetings. First because you have to be there, but second you need to understand everything to put it how it should be, always in the right context. Jürgen trusted James and I with his words and we could not have done it without his blessing.

It was also important that only a few people knew we were doing it: Mike [Gordon], Billy [Hogan], Jürgen, James and myself. It was the only way to keep it authentic and real.

JÜRGEN, MIKE AND BILLY WERE ALL VERY SUPPORTIVE OF THE IDEA, THEN?

It was the only way. Jürgen read the entire book and loved it, Vitor [Matos] read it as well and they are the two people I trust most. I know Jürgen reading it was an important moment for James and I – his support meant a lot to us both. But not only Jürgen, the whole staff were so kind when I told them. It helps that I'm really positive about everyone, haha! For sure there will be some banter in the next few months but I'm fine with that!

WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT WRITING *INTENSITY*?

The idea that people could read what we are all about. The idea that the way we work is documented, once and for all. It became a counter-pressing bible! I enjoyed covering our difficult moments and explaining how we dealt with them and, of course, the emotion of the successful moments and winning the cups we hadn't won before, the ones we were missing. I enjoyed writing about the banter between players and staff, there were plenty of funny moments!

In the end, you just see a passionate group of people from all over the world coming together, thriving in this era of representing this iconic club. Obviously we are quite a good football team, but our consistency and peaks were close to perfect last year. I'm proud I was able to tell the story of this special team in this way – which I don't believe has ever been done before at LFC. But people make the difference, not words.

AND WHAT WERE ITS MOST CHALLENGING ASPECTS?

Well, it's 480 pages long, haha! The constant pressure of writing it in a way people will like, being fair to the opposition, not giving away too much detail, these were all challenges. But the hardest thing is to keep the discipline up. It's 2am after a game and you are writing in a dark and lonely living-room. That was a challenge.



I'm just so curious [about] how people will read it, they will re-live this season from the insight and I truly hope they will be even prouder of LFC after reading it. We didn't change or add anything

I think some people may think it gives too much away, that it gives away our secrets, but I can tell you it does not do that in a way that will be damaging to what we do on the pitch going forward. But it does give an insight into this Liverpool FC that we have never given before. Anyone who thinks these things doesn't understand our style of play, doesn't understand the role of players and for sure doesn't understand that it's been about seven years of repetition.

Anyway, how can you prepare against unpredictability? Yesterday's Liverpool isn't tomorrow's Liverpool. You will read this in the book so enough about that! What I truly hope is that it inspires fans, coaches and players. Because in the end it's for you guys. And I promise you now: we will hold nothing back trying to make next year even better.

Some people may think it gives too much away, that it gives away our secrets, but it does not do that in a way that will be damaging to what we do on the pitch going forward. And anyway, how can you prepare against unpredictability?

WHY SHOULD FANS READ THE BOOK, WHAT WILL IT TELL THEM ABOUT THIS TEAM AND YOUR WAY OF WORKING?

They will get insight that has never been shared before. I think it's unique. Last year, in many aspects, was a historical season. One moment you sit with us in Jürgen's emotional meeting an hour-and-a-half before we play the FA Cup final at Wembley, the next moment you are with me and Jürgen in the car on the drive home while we talk about life. It's a mixture of events that, from 4 August, more people will be part of.

We believe we are one, and our supporters deserve this extra insight. We are in the middle of our project and they will read how much we love this club, our fans and our team. They will read about why our team is special and they will learn more about Jürgen and his ways, about why he is one of the best managers in world football. They will learn about how our boys interact, how they train and how they deliver.

IS THERE A PART OR CHAPTER YOU ARE PARTICULARLY PROUD OF, A FAVOURITE BIT OF THE BOOK?

I loved reading it again, it's so authentic. There are just so many insane parts – I forgot a lot of them already! Just brilliant. Also, a big, big compliment to James, it was a pleasure to work with him on this project, he made everything much easier. Maybe it's better if I give you a small part just after we beat Chelsea in the FA Cup final so you have an idea how the book reads:

When I ran to Ali I waved my arms like a bird, I have absolutely no idea why. As you guys can see, there are so many things I could speak about, but what will really stay with me happened towards the end of the celebrations when I saw Milner. It was the best hug I ever had. I respect him so much, he is so special. Thank you for leading the team with commitment and example; I will be forever grateful that I met you as a player. You gave my understanding of professionalism a new dimension.

Just before that, I was searching for my best and oldest friend in the crowd to give him a wave. We grew up together from a young age and he came to the game at the



last minute, flying into London that morning after I'd told him I felt we needed him there to win. While trying to pick him out, someone grabbed my neck. It was Jürgen. We went to our fans together and celebrated with three massive fist-pumps. This was our moment. It meant the world to me. In front of my friend, in front of all the fans together with Jürgen sharing the moment.

INITIAL FEEDBACK HAS BEEN GREAT FROM BOTH FANS AND STAFF, THAT MUST BE A GREAT FEELING?

Yes, it's so nice to hear. When the supporters read the book, I hope they will understand how much we love them and how important they really are to what we are doing. You know what? Let's give you guys another little preview. This extract is from when we signed our new contracts, something we had been secretly working on for a long time. It was in a season-defining part of the season, here you go:

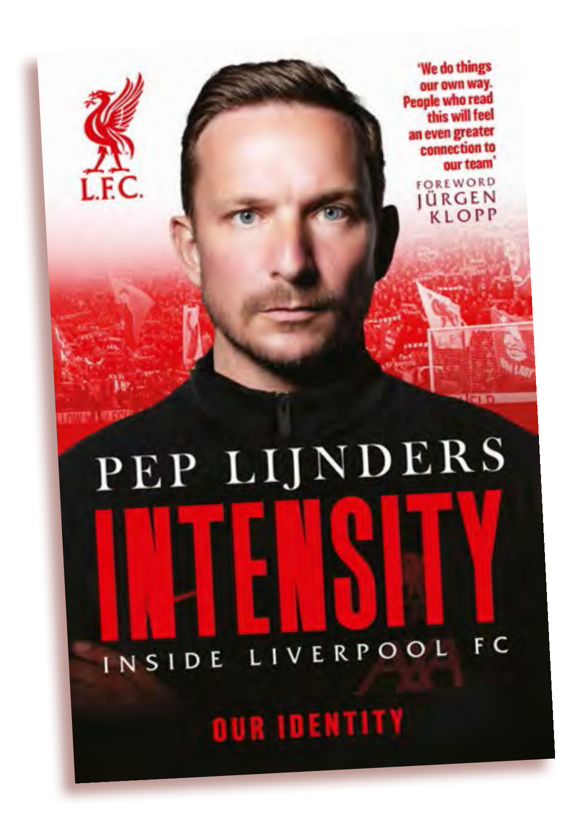
The following day we would sign and announce our new 2026 deals. So, this was only the start… the following morning at AXA, Jonathan [Bamber], Julian [Ward], Jürgen, Pete [Krawietz], Marc [Kosicke] and Vitor were all standing inside the manager's office. Mike Gordon spoke to us all. "This project has been the most incredible experience of my life. Thank you for contributing and having this important role." "Thank you, Mike, for the trust," I replied.

Mike continued: "In 2015 I was standing in front of Stevie's restaurant and said we were going to conquer the world together. I'm not saying that happened but we are not far off. In life, the most precious currency we spend is our time; who we choose to spend that currency with says everything about us as people. I feel so privileged to be able to spend my currency of time with you and our group."

Everyone clapped, signed and we moved on. Marc and Mike [Jäggle] represent me so well. I'm so happy they are at my side, having the same values and same ambition. I walked straight out to the training pitch to put everything in place. Work goes on, we need to keep building the future. It wasn't the right moment to celebrate this new deal, I felt; there was too much at stake. I just couldn't feel it. It's sad but true. Move forward, we should just never settle.




Sponsors for 30 years.
Forever fans.
L.F.C.
Carlsberg
Carlsberg
YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL
FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
Official Beer Partner



ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO THE BOOK FINALLY BEING PUBLISHED AND OUT THERE?

It's exciting and scary at the same time. I hope people will read it with the same enjoyment as I wrote it. I was constantly thinking, 'Ah they will love this', but you never know of course. Again, some people may say the book gives too much away, it may harm us on the pitch. It will not. That is not the purpose of the book – the purpose of the book is to provide insight into this special project and team we have. That was the whole driving force behind it. They are a team that deserves to be spoken about. They are special and you will read that.

FINALLY, HAVE YOU GOT ANY PLANS TO WRITE ANOTHER BOOK ANY TIME SOON?

You have to ask James – he's the boss, haha!

WIN THE BOOK

Pep's unique diary of 2021/22 simply has to be read – not just by Reds fans but by anyone interested in how an elite football club works or simply looking to be inspired by some of the biggest personalities in world sport. Written alongside the club's head of editorial, James Carroll, this is 'access all areas' like never before. "Our identity is our intensity," declares Lijnders, and from the very first chapter he takes us on a footballing thrill-ride we will never forget.

Returning to the Liverpool FC coaching staff in 2018, the highly-respected Dutchman has been key to everything the Reds have achieved since including a sixth European Cup, UEFA Super Cup, FIFA Club World Cup, and of course a first Premier League title claimed with a record-breaking 99 points. Liverpool's blistering brand of football has revived a sleeping giant, energised its vast army of fans, entertained crowds at home and all over the world, and redefined coaching excellence.

Now one of the game's most thoughtful students tells the inside-story of a season which, even by LFC standards, was truly sensational. Week by week as the drama unfolds it's all here: from pre-season to unforgettable finale and the drive for four major honours; great goals and gruelling schedules; passionate team-talks and personal reflections; unsung heroes and Kop idols; the pride and the passion, the joy and the heartache…and the fun.

In his own engaging and inspiring style, Pep takes readers behind-the-scenes at Anfield, the AXA Training Ground and the team hotel; on the pitch, in the dugout and back in the dressing-room away from the media glare.

The book's foreword is provided by the boss. "Pep is unique," writes Klopp. "I've never met anyone like him before and I'm not sure I'll be fortunate enough to do so again in the future. He is studious and coaching-obsessed; he believes in the training process with a passion I've never seen before. It was his obsession with chronicling everything we do that led to this project happening. This diary, this book, our story of 2021/22… People who read this will feel an even greater connection to our team."

Intensity is now on sale and available to purchase from the club's official online store. Better still, we have three copies to give away. To be in with a chance of winning one, simply answer the following question:

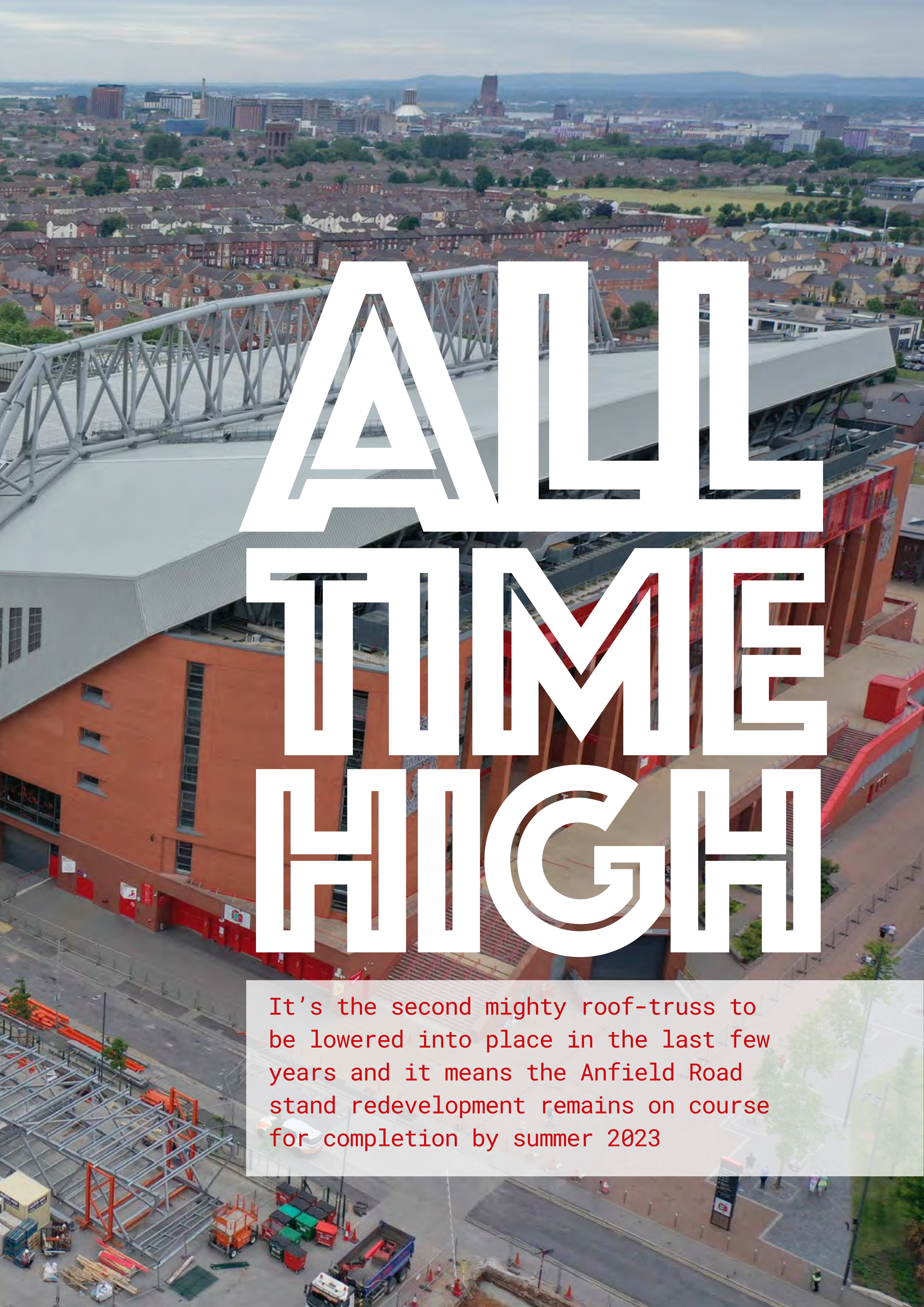
At which other huge European club did Pep coach from 2006 to 2014?
(a) Ajax (b) FC Porto (c) Inter Milan

Email your answer, name, address and contact phone number with 'PEP INTENSITY COMPETITION' in the subject line to liverpoolfcmag@reachsport.com.

Closing date is Monday 5 September 2022. Normal competition rules apply and winners will receive prizes ASAP after the closing date.




Sir Kenny Dalglish Stand



ALL TIME HIGH

It's the second mighty roof-truss to be lowered into place in the last few years and it means the Anfield Road stand redevelopment remains on course for completion by summer 2023


standard chartered







We've been here before. Seven years ago an enormous roof truss was raised and lowered by two cranes onto two towers either side of what would become Anfield's expanded Main Stand, having been delayed for a day due to high winds.

The weather played a part again this July 2022 as the truss for the new Anfield Road Stand was hoisted into place amid record-breaking heat. With 12 months left of the build, hitting this milestone was hugely important ahead of the 2022/23 season.

Thirty engineers spent around 12 hours overseeing the operation as the two 600-tonne 'crawler cranes' did the heavy lifting. Preparatory work had started in May by building the two 60ft steel towers or 'haunches' ready to sit either side of the truss.

The cranes worked together to perform the difficult manoeuvre, positioning the truss onto the haunches while controlling forward-and-backward and side-to-side movement. When everything was aligned, the cranes held the truss in position at a height of 164 metres until it could be bolted in place. The towers, haunches and truss are connected by a total of 25,000 bolts.

The development plan – the third major capital-build project undertaken by LFC in recent years following the Main Stand and the AXA Training Centre – remains on course for completion with club MD Andy Hughes telling the *Liverpool Echo* earlier this year: "It's really exciting – I have to say, I see it every week and I get the 'wow' factor myself. It's absolutely incredible the speed at which it is going up. It's going to be really big for the fans and by the summer you are going to see a significant change."

Paul Cuttill, vice-president of stadium operations, added: "We are delighted to see the truss lifted into place. This is one of the most challenging and complicated parts of the build. There has been a lot of planning involved and it took a few goes to get started due to the complexity of the lift.

"It's a historical moment for the stadium and the club and a fantastic achievement. Huge thanks to the incredible team from our stadium and contractors to get this in place in these temperatures."

Construction had begun last September and just before Christmas the club published drone-footage of a dozen steel 'Y' columns which had been installed close to the existing stand to cantilever the structure over and create a space underneath. February brought behind-the-scenes images on the club website of work on the central and east 'cores' and lift shafts which would serve all floors and the roof level.

When finished the expanded Anfield Road Stand is expected to create around 400 matchday roles, in addition to the 2,200 people





currently employed in various operations at each home game, of which 95 per cent are known to live in the City Region. Contractor Buckingham is also working directly with the club's Red Neighbours team on a range of activities with the community and schools.

The design sees the stand's lower tier retained and refurbished with a new upper tier built above it. As well as an increased capacity the redevelopment will be similar to the stadium's Main Stand with improved concourses and sports-bar lounge hospitality facilities. This stand will also see the relocation of the Family Park to a covered position.

Throughout the design process careful consideration has once again been given to Anfield's world-class atmosphere through the development of an acoustic and lighting strategy to match that of the one developed with the Main Stand. The four-stand stadium configuration and character has been retained and includes historical design references.

Upon completion Anfield will be one of the largest venues in the Premier League with an overall capacity of over 61,000. Of the 7,000 additional seats, around 5,200 will be general-admission and around 1,800 with hospitality facilities. This capacity-increase is the maximum achievable while complying with stadium design, safety and comfort standards.



"HE LOVED THE CLUB MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE"

David Moores was Liverpool through-and-through and some famous names were quick to pay tribute to the former chairman following last month's sad news

Wednesday, or quite possibly Thursday, 25/26 May 2005. The Reds have just won the Champions League in the most sensational circumstances, and while the jubilant players celebrate in their dressing-room at Istanbul's Ataturk Stadium, in walks Liverpool FC chairman David Moores.

Midfielder Didi Hamann takes up the story with the *Liverpool Echo*: "He was just overwhelmed with emotion when he walked in. He never said anything, he had a tear running down his cheek and I pulled him into the showers and had a smoke with him!

"He was, at first, very, very reluctant to give me a cigarette because he said what would happen if Rafa [Benitez] found out or saw us. So I said to him, 'You own the f****** club! Just get rid of him!' We had a smoke in the shower there, never said a word, and it was just the most perfect end to the night, to share that moment of peace and quiet.

"That was him 100 per cent. He was so humble, so gentle and he always had an ear for people. He was always there if you needed him."

Steeped in LFC tradition, Moores was never one for the limelight. He once said: "What's the point of me taking up valuable space just so I can have a plaque on the door that says 'Chairman'? We try to keep it simple."

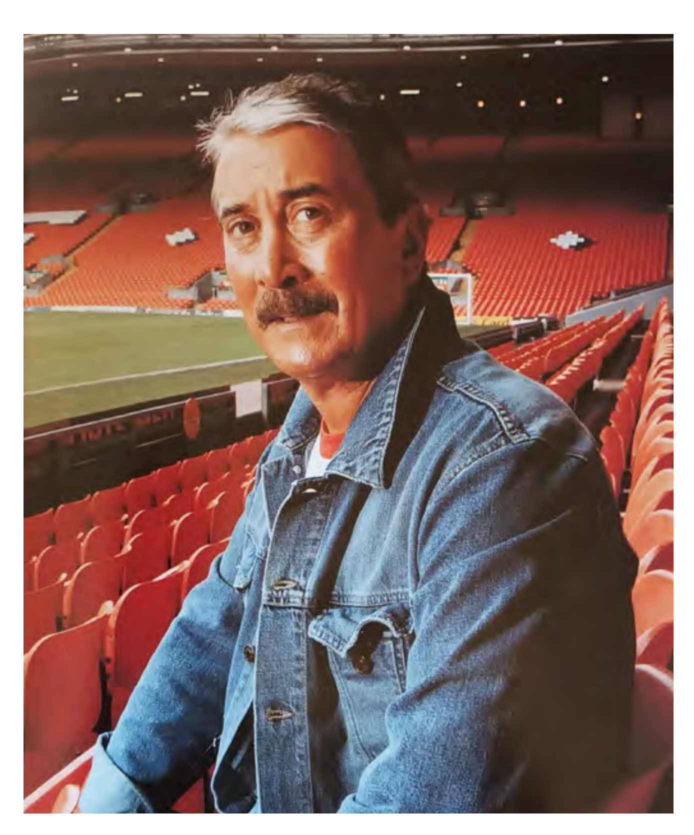
During his tenure from 1991 to 2007 (and later as honorary life president) he preferred to operate in the background, and like every fan he experienced the highs and the lows and felt them as much, if not more, as the next Kopite. Everyone connected with LFC was deeply saddened by his passing on Friday 22 July, aged 76, just weeks after the death of his beloved wife of 39 years, Marge.

While his uncle Sir John Moores, founder of the Littlewoods retail empire, twice served as chairman of Everton FC in the 1960s and 70s, David was an ardent Liverpudlian, witnessing the league title triumph of 1964 and the historic FA Cup win the following season.

The Moores family held a majority stake in the Reds for more than half-a-century and David took over at the club he loved in September 1991. Alongside chief-executive Rick Parry, he presided over Liverpool's entry into the newly-founded Premier League in 1992 and oversaw the managerial appointments of Roy Evans, Gerard Houllier and Rafael Benitez.







Back in April 2001 he was interviewed for the matchday programme by author and fellow fan Kevin Sampson, when a Liverpool side featuring local lads Robbie Fowler, Michael Owen, Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher plus overseas talent such as Hamann, Sami Hyypia, Stephane Henchoz and Vladimir Smicer, was chasing a cup treble.

He revealed his heroes were Bill Shankly and later Kenny Dalglish, not just for his playing prowess but also his devotion to the Hillsborough families in the aftermath of the 1989 tragedy.

"I'm a fan like anybody else," he said, "but I'm a fan under pressure. I want it so much, just as much as anyone, but I can feel the anticipation, the weight of expectation. I know they're all looking to me to deliver – and that's what we're aiming to do."

It was around that time in 2002 when work began into the feasibility of a new stadium at nearby Stanley Park. Ultimately Moores felt that could only happen with investment from new owners. He sold the club in 2007 and the rest is painful history, with David resigning from the board in 2009 and expressing his "huge regret" at what transpired in that era before Fenway Sports Group assumed control. He would not set foot inside Anfield again for a decade.

Didi insists his friend "always had the best interests of the club at his heart [but] too many people blamed him for it, which to my mind is just plain wrong. I am sure if he knew what was going to happen he wouldn't have sold it [to them].

"If you look at the history of the club and where it is now, I don't think that would have been possible had it not been for David. He just epitomised what the club stood for: openness, warmth, loyalty. He used to travel to the away games with us – he was one of us – and I think he loved the club more than anyone."

Following the news last month, Sir Kenny tweeted: "Marina & I are both very saddened by the passing of David Moores. He was a loyal Liverpool fan whose dream came true when he was appointed Chairman, & he did a tremendous amount to help the Club. Our condolences go to his family. He'll be greatly missed by all who knew him. RIP."

With a broken-heart emoji, Jamie Carragher posted: "RIP Mr Chairman. When I think of the good times I had at @LFC David Moores was at the heart of it. He will be sorely missed. Thank you for what you did for me & the club." Michael Owen added: "Heartbreaking. RIP Chairman. I know for a fact that all the lads thought the world of you."

Former club CEO Peter Moore posted a picture of David and his wife taken two-and-a-half years ago (below) ahead of a Merseyside derby in which the Reds beat Everton 5-2. He wrote: "We were able to bring David and Marge back to Anfield in December 2019 after too long an absence from the club he loved and guided for so many years.

"You'll Never Walk Alone, David."





MILNER FOREVER

We've got another season of the incomparable James Milner at Liverpool FC and his team-mates, the coaching staff and the fans are delighted



Words: William Hughes

Liverpool FC fans will be delighted to have James Milner among their ranks again this season. The vice-captain, who joined the club in 2015, agreed to stay at Anfield for a further season when he signed fresh terms beyond the expiry of his previous deal this summer.

Since arriving on a free transfer seven years ago, the no7 has helped Jürgen Klopp's team win the Premier League, Champions League, FIFA Club World Cup, UEFA Super Cup, Emirates FA Cup, Carabao Cup… and just recently the FA Community Shield.

During his time at Anfield so far, Milner has played 289 games – the most of any side he has represented in his career – and scored 26 goals.

Thirty nine of those appearances came in 2021/22 as Liverpool contested every possible fixture and Milner passed a remarkable 800 matches in his professional career. The midfielder's decision to prolong his stay was influenced by his faith in the Reds' potential to compete for major honours again in 2022/23.

"I'm very pleased to be staying for another season," he explained. "I have never taken playing for this club for granted and I never will.

"An overriding feeling for me – and a vitally important one in the process – was the belief I can still contribute to the team. The gaffer was clear what he thought and that was a big factor in me extending my contract.

"Ultimately it was a decision I made, with the support of my family, on the basis of the quality of people at the club; team-mates first and foremost, along with the manager and coaches. Plus the brilliant training-ground staff. From the medical room, sports science, the kit department, nutrition, the canteen and office staff. All people who make the team what it is.

"As long as I can still play my part, that's not something easy to walk away from. Last season was extraordinary, even though it



The gaffer was clear what he thought and that was a big factor in me extending my contract. Ultimately it was a decision I made, with the support of my family, on the basis of the quality of people at the club; team-mates first and foremost, along with the manager and coaches

didn't have the ending we hoped it would. But I think that will only make us all even hungrier for more success, to be honest. I felt that after the parade and that played a part in my decision-making also. It's a unique club.

"I'm already looking forward to refocusing and going again. It's a brilliant dressing-room to be part of."

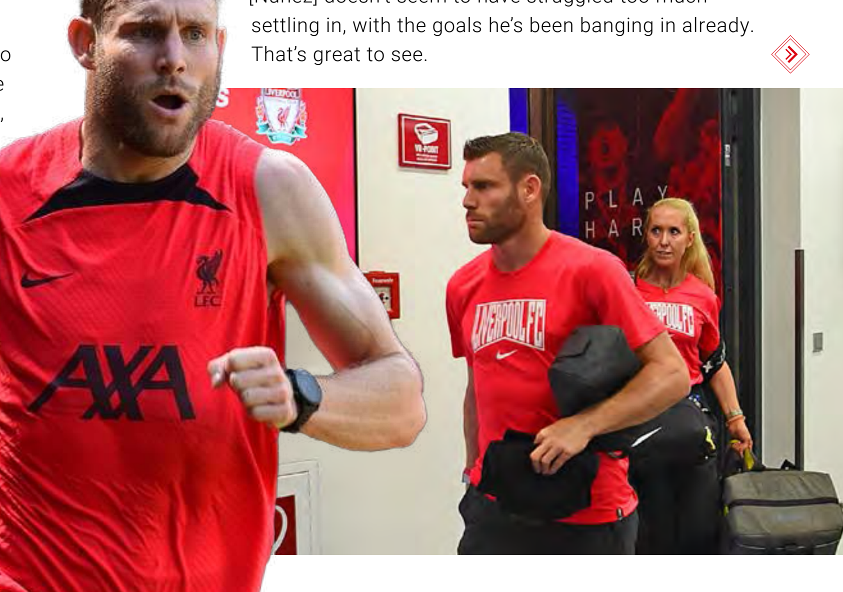
James has just completed the 21st pre-season of his senior career and shows no signs of slowing down yet.

His first Premier League appearance of 2022/23 was set to be his 200th for Liverpool, seeing him become only the 16th player to achieve that feat in the competition's 30-year history. He says the shared experiences this group have had, both the highs and lows, will help as the squad resume their challenge for more trophies this term after starting the campaign by lifting the FA Community Shield.

Speaking to liverpoolfc.com from the club's training base in Austria as the Reds continued their preparations for the new campaign, he said: "I think it's the same every season, it's always tricky, you don't know where you stand, how good the pre-season has been.

"Everyone is obviously all over the place, people are playing different minutes, different times of training, some players came back later than others. It's the same for every team and it's never easy. It's a complete new season – you're not going to go into the season knowing exactly where you are. All we could do is what we've done every year: work as hard as possible, do the preparation as well as possible, get the fitness working.

"It helps, the group we've had. We've been together a long time, with a few new additions obviously. Darwin [Nunez] doesn't seem to have struggled too much settling in, with the goals he's been banging in already. That's great to see.





"All you can do is prepare as well as you can and hopefully you're ready. The amount of time we've been together, that helps. We've been through pre-seasons before, we've been through ups and downs, we've won trophies, we've lost trophies. That definitely helps going into a new season."

It won't have escaped the notice of supporters that Milner sported a new look in pre-season, his facial hair the result of some badgering from his team-mates.

He won't thank the Ted Lasso analogy but given how highly the Reds' coaching staff value Milner's influence, there has been something of the 'coach Beard' about him!

"When we were in Singapore, we were in the treatment room having a bit of craic and Hendo and Robbo were on me and said, 'Go on, you need to grow it'. "I said, 'Alright, why not? I'll do it for banter'. We'll see where it goes. They've got a month of growth, so we'll see where it goes from here. They're in control of it, so if it's no good it's their fault!"

Milner's decision to extend his contract was naturally greeted with delight by Jürgen Klopp after the Yorkshireman put pen to paper in June.

"It's important for us – all of us," said the boss. "A lot is often made of James' leadership skills and his influence in the dressing-room, and of course that's correct and justified, but nobody should overlook his quality on the pitch, where he continues to perform to a level that meant we simply couldn't afford to lose him.

"His professionalism is the benchmark for any athlete and it's why he sets the tone for this team with his ability and attitude.

"We had the longest campaign possible



last season and Milly only got stronger and better and more influential as it went on.

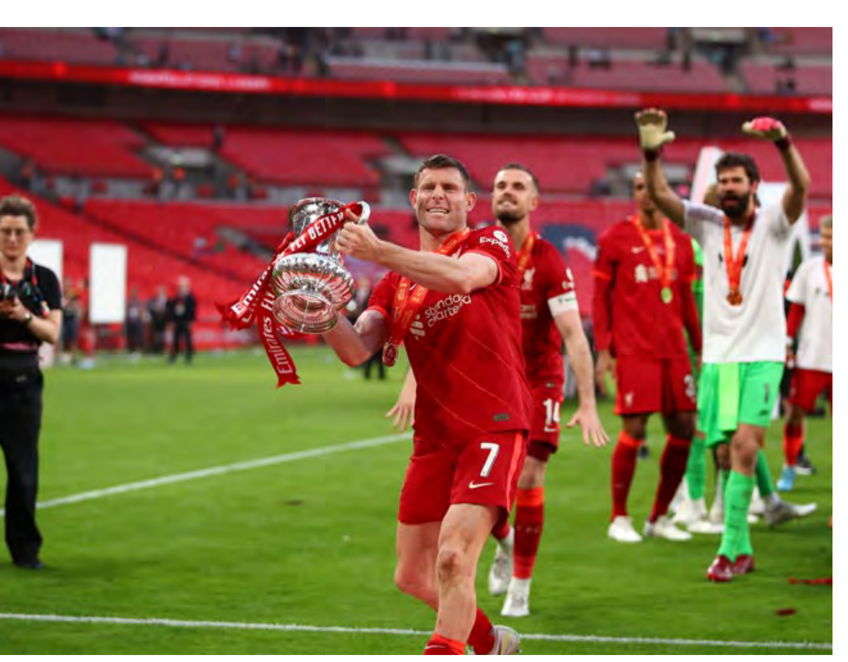
"Typically, the discussions we had around extending his contract were centred on: what kind of contribution do we see him making as a player?

"My answer to him was the same I'll share with supporters: we don't limit it. We just want the same from him again, because that's not possible to replace. He can still do it and we still need it.

"So I'm grateful he answered the call and agreed to give us the extra year of his extraordinary career. More to come."

Another of Klopp's trusted lieutenants, assistant manager Pep Lijnders, said it all in his new book *Intensity*. Describing his emotions after the Reds defeated Chelsea in May to win the FA Cup for the first time in 16 years, he wrote: "What will really stay with me happened towards the end of the celebrations when I saw Milner. It was the best hug I ever had. I respect him so much, he is so special.

What will really stay with me happened towards the end of the celebrations when I saw Milner. It was the best hug I ever had. I respect him so much, he is so special



"Thank you for leading the team with commitment and example; I will be forever grateful that I met you as a player. You gave my understanding of professionalism a new dimension."

Milner says it was important to him to wait until the end of such a hectic 2021/22 season before considering his immediate future so that he could make his decision in a calm and considered manner.

"I think the part of the season we were in there were so many games and such big things, it was a big decision and something you don't really want to take at that time. It was something I didn't really think about too strongly until the end of the season. Speaking to the club, they were happy with that. It was always my preference that I wanted to stay."

There was inevitably some down-time during the club's summer tour and the latest craze among the squad was the popular card game UNO. Milner says that the games helped to further build the camaraderie in the squad.

"I had the odd game. The boys were loving it and I think there were a few red ears afterwards as well because I think they were playing for flicks for whoever was knocked out!

"Some boys were playing chess, some boys were playing other things, but it's not about what the lads were doing – it's the fact they'd rather be doing it together, having fun and enjoying each



other's company than being in the room on their own. I think that's a big thing and shows the spirit within the squad."

The Reds took a number of younger players on tour with them and Milner says that sense of togetherness helped talented teens such as Fabio Carvalho, Stefan Bajcetic, Luke Chambers, Harvey Davies, James Norris, Thomas Hill, Melkamu Frauendorf, Isaac Mabaya, Bobby Clark and Fabian Mrozek join their contemporaries Harvey Elliott and Tyler Morton in settling quickly among their seniors.

"That's credit to the boys and credit to the manager for the atmosphere he creates and the opportunities he gives us. You see how hard we train. We train so hard and do a lot of sessions, but in the times where we got chance to have a bit of downtime we're given opportunities to be together and create those relationships. And you can see the way the boys have started in the games as well – because obviously you only play good football when you're happy. The new boys coming in and doing well, that's all part of it.



MILLY'S MARVELLOUS CAREER

NO	SEASON	CLUB	HONOURS
1	2002/03	Leeds United	
2	2003/04	Leeds United	
3	2004/05	Newcastle United	
4	2005/06	Newcastle United	
5	2006/07	Newcastle United	Intertoto Cup
6	2007/08	Newcastle United	
7	2008/09	Newcastle United/Aston Villa	
8	2009/10	Aston Villa	
9	2010/11	Aston Villa/Manchester City	FA Cup
10	2011/12	Manchester City	Premier League
11	2012/13	Manchester City	FA Community Shield
12	2013/14	Manchester City	Premier League, League Cup
13	2014/15	Manchester City	
14	2015/16	Liverpool	
15	2016/17	Liverpool	
16	2017/18	Liverpool	
17	2018/19	Liverpool	UEFA Champions League
18	2019/20	Liverpool	Premier League, UEFA Super Cup, FIFA Club World Cup
19	2020/21	Liverpool	
20	2021/22	Liverpool	League Cup, FA Cup
21	2022/23	Liverpool	FA Community Shield

The boys have slotted straight in and it's great to see. The atmosphere has been fantastic and that's exactly what you need going into a big season

"It's a very strong group. It takes time to develop that and that has obviously been developed over a long time. You unfortunately lose a few faces but the new guys coming in, pre-season is a great time to do it – you are away together and a few days seems like probably a month together if you're only in and out of the training ground.

"The boys have slotted straight in and it is great to see that. The atmosphere has been fantastic and that's exactly what you need going into a big season."

After making his Premier League debut for Leeds United in November 2002, Milner, now 36, has spent more than half his life putting his body through the rigours of pre-season with a top-flight football club.

That he has been able to do so with Liverpool for a seventh time is something that has delighted him with the trips to Thailand and Singapore a reminder of the club's global appeal.

"It's an incredible football club; the support we get all over the world, the group of players and staff that I'm lucky enough to be working with every day, the size of the club, the success the club has had in the past and in the recent history since I've been at the club.

"It's been great to be part of that. And obviously the drive is to go on and keep winning trophies and keep being successful."



PREMIER LEAGUE ALL-TIME TOP APPS 1992/93–2021/22

POSITION	PLAYER	APPS
1	Gareth Barry	653
2	Ryan Giggs	632
3	Frank Lampard	609
4	James Milner	588
5	David James	572
6	Gary Speed	535
7	Emile Heskey	516
8	Mark Schwarzer	514
9	Jamie Carragher	508
10	Phil Neville	505

LFC'S PREMIER LEAGUE 200 CLUB

POSITION	PLAYER	APPS
1	Jamie Carragher	508
2	Steven Gerrard	504
3	Jordan Henderson	325
4	Sami Hyypia	318
5	Pepe Reina	285
6	Robbie Fowler	266
7	Lucas Leiva	247
8	Martin Skrtel	242
9	Steve McManaman	240
10	John Arne Riise	234
11=	Jamie Redknapp	231
11=	Roberto Firmino	231
13	Michael Owen	216
14	David James	214
15	Dirk Kuyt	208

* Milner went into the new season with 199 PL appearances for LFC

HOME & AWAY

Rounding up the youngsters spending 2022/23 on loan and showcasing a trio of teenagers who impressed with the senior side in Asia this summer

A number of Liverpool FC's young talents will spend the 2022/23 season gaining experience in new surroundings after agreeing loan-spells to help them sample football at different levels.

At the time this magazine went to print, 11 Reds prospects were preparing for their various new challenges. Of that number, centre-back Rhys Williams has the most first-team experience. His partnership with Nat Phillips towards the end of the 2020/21 season was crucial in helping Liverpool secure Champions League football in 2021/22 and the 21-year-old has now made 19 senior appearances for the club.

Rhys appeared 13 times for Liverpool's Under-23s last term, scoring twice, having started the campaign on loan at Championship club Swansea City. This term he will be back in the second tier of the English game, linking up with Michael Appleton at Blackpool. Rhys helped the Seasiders make a winning start to their season, keeping a clean sheet in a 1-0 home win over Reading.

Also appearing in the Championship this season will be midfielder Tyler Morton, with the 19-year-old Wallasey-born player linking up with Blackburn Rovers. The Academy graduate enjoyed a breakthrough campaign in the Reds' first team last term, making nine appearances for Jürgen Klopp's side, including starts against FC Porto, AC Milan and Tottenham Hotspur. After playing in the Reds' pre-season fixture against Racing Club De Strasbourg Alsace, he linked up with the Ewood Park club. Jon Dahl Tomasson's side began their new season with a 1-0 home win over QPR.

Centre-back Billy Koumetio has also headed out of the AXA Training Ground on a temporary basis, making the switch to Austrian Bundesliga side Austria Vienna.

The Frenchman started the Carabao Cup quarter-final against Leicester City at Anfield last season and was a regular for the Under-23s, playing 27 times in all competitions and scoring twice.



Midfielder James Balagizi moves on loan to Crawley Town

Joining Koumetio in gaining experience abroad this season is left-back Owen Beck. The Welsh youth international has joined Portuguese top-flight side Famalicao, who finished eighth in the Primeira Liga last season.

A graduate of the Reds Academy, which he joined at Under-13s level, Beck was part of the first-team squad for their 2021/22 pre-season and then signed a new deal with the club.

Owen went on to make two first-team appearances in 2021/22, featuring as a substitute in the Carabao Cup ties against Preston North End and Leicester City as Jürgen Klopp's side went on to lift the trophy. The defender also made 20 starts at Premier League 2 level, plus six in the UEFA Youth League.

Northern Ireland international Conor Bradley also enjoyed a breakthrough season last term, making a handful of senior appearances across the Champions League, FA Cup and Carabao Cup. His league action was confined to Premier League 2, where he scored twice and got eight assists for the Under-23s, leading to a nomination for player of the season.

Now Conor will be seeking regular game-time in League One at Bolton Wanderers under the management of Ian Evatt.

Another Reds full-back making a switch into the Football League is 22-year-old Adam Lewis, who will spend the forthcoming campaign at League Two side Newport County.

The Academy graduate and left-sided Scouser has previously had loan stints with Amiens SC, Plymouth Argyle and, most recently, Livingston. He made his debut for the Reds senior side when he started against Shrewsbury Town in the FA Cup fourth-round replay at Anfield in February 2020.

With Koumetio in Austria and Beck in Portugal, a fellow defender plying his trade on foreign fields this term is Anderson Arroyo who joined Spanish club Alaves on a season-long deal shortly after extending his current LFC contract. The 22-year-old Colombian will spend the 2022/23 campaign with the Segunda Division side who began their league campaign with a trip to Leganes on 13 August.

Talented midfielder James Balagizi followed Arroyo in signing fresh terms with the Reds before heading out on loan, linking up with League Two outfit Crawley Town.

The 18-year-old, who joined the Reds as an under-11s player, has been a regular for the Academy teams in recent seasons and was part of the side that reached the FA Youth Cup final in 2020/21.

Completing those leaving Liverpool for the immediate future are a trio of goalkeepers.

Jakub Ojrzynski has joined Polish side Radomiak Radom with the 19-year-old set to play in the Ekstraklasa, his home country's top-flight this season. Ojrzynski, a Poland youth international, joined the Reds in 2019 and penned a new long-term contract with the club last summer. He was on loan with Caernarfon Town during the 2021/22 campaign, making 31 starts for the Welsh Premier League outfit. Radomiak finished seventh in the Ekstraklasa in 2021/22 and began their new season in mid-July.

Words: William Hughes

Fellow shot-stopper Vitezslav Jaros has joined Stockport County, with the 20-year-old Czech linking up with the newly-promoted League Two club having spent the second half of last season with Notts County in the National League.

Also moving to Cheshire is Marcelo Pitaluga, who has joined Macclesfield FC. The 19-year-old Brazilian established himself in the Reds U23s side in 2021/22 and was named on the first-team bench four times throughout last season.

Macclesfield, co-owned by Robbie Savage, will compete in the Northern Premier League Division One West – the eighth tier of the English football pyramid – after they won the North West Counties Football League Premier Division title last term.

While that trio of keepers gain experience elsewhere it has been quite a summer for another of the young Reds goalie group, Harvey Davies. The teenage Scouser made his senior debut in the 2-0 win over Crystal Palace in Singapore, playing for half-an-hour and then the same amount of time in the 5-0 victory at RB Leipzig the following week. He also played the full 90 minutes at Anfield as the Reds took on Racing Club De Strasbourg Alsace.

At the beginning of July, he'd been part of the England squad that won the U19 European Championship in Slovakia alongside Academy team-mates Luke Chambers and Jarell Quansah. To cap a memorable month, the 18-year-old then signed a new, extended contract with the Reds.

Of making his debut in Singapore, he reflected: "It was obviously really special for me. First game I've played, so now the debut is done. It was nice to do it out in Singapore in front of all those fans as well. It was a really proud moment for me and my family. I know they were all watching back home; it was a bit of a shame they couldn't be there but I know they will be absolutely really proud of me and I'm really happy for myself as well."

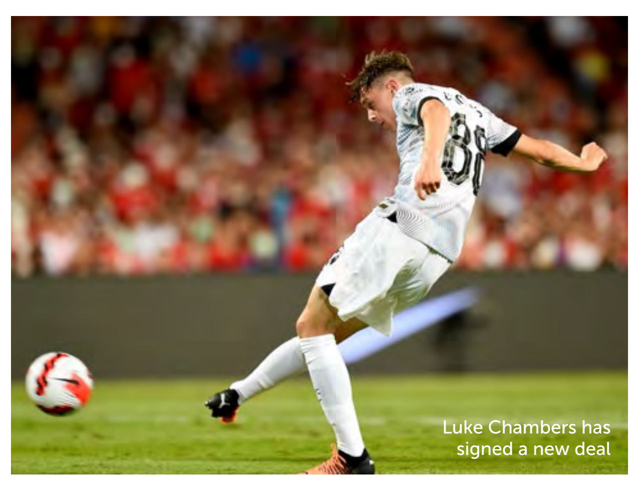
Defender Luke Chambers, who like Davies was part of England's triumphant Under-19s Euros squad, also made his senior bow during the pre-season tour before signing a new deal with the club.

Wearing the no88 shirt, he started the opening friendly against Manchester United in Thailand and then replaced Naby Keita for the final 12 minutes of the 2-0 defeat of Palace.

The 18-year-old is a versatile player who can operate at left-back or in central defence. A penalty and set-piece expert, he also took the captain's armband on many occasions last season for Marc Bridge-Wilkinson's Under-18s team.

One more Academy player who caught the eye during the senior pre-season fixtures was midfielder Stefan Bajcetic. The 17-year-old Spaniard operated in the no6 position but can also play in the centre of the back-line. His displays were all the more impressive for the fact that he has been battling back from an injury which ruled him out of the final three months of last season. Signed from Celta Vigo in February 2021, he enjoyed his experiences on tour.

"I think this is the best club for me to develop and I'm happy," he explained. "It was a very good experience for young lads to play in Thailand and Singapore and travel with the team. Everyone has been good with me. Obviously [my family and friends] are very happy and buzzing. They always try to watch the games and if there's something on social media, they try to look at it."



Luke Chambers has signed a new deal

Owen Beck is Portugal-bound for now

>>

PREMIER LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL CUP RETURNS



Liverpool Under-21s have been drawn to face Paris Saint-Germain, Dinamo Zagreb, Hertha BSC and SC Braga in the group stages of the 2022/23 Premier League International Cup.

The competition was last played in the 2019/20 campaign before being curtailed due to the pandemic.

The Premier League International Cup will consist of three groups of eight teams (four Premier League 2 clubs and four invited international clubs), with the top two teams in each group and the two best third-placed teams progressing into the knockout stages (quarter-finals, semi-finals and final).

All games are to be played in England, with the Reds' U21s hosting all their fixtures at the Kirkby Academy.

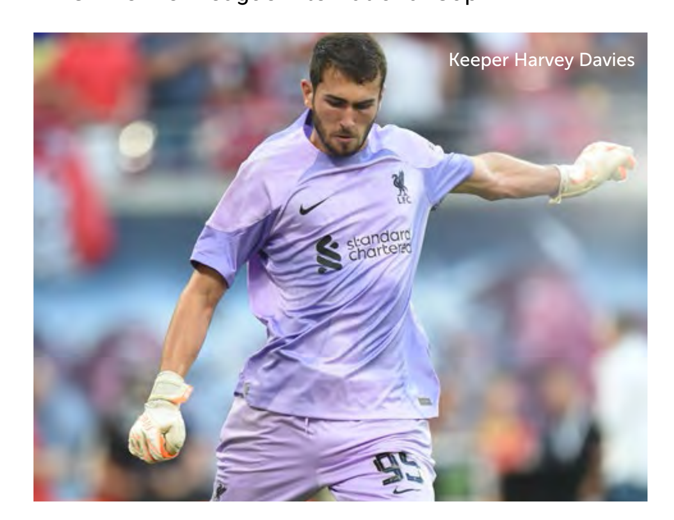
The confirmed dates (all 7pm kick-off) are:

Wed 9 November:
Liverpool U21s v Dinamo Zagreb
Wed 11 January:
Liverpool U21s v Paris Saint-Germain
Wed 18 January:
Liverpool U21s v SC Braga,
Wed 1 February:
Liverpool U21s v Hertha BSC

UNDER 21S FIXTURES 2022/23

AUGUST	
Sun 7	MANCHESTER CITY
Sun 14	Brighton & Hove Albion
Sat 20	BLACKBURN ROVERS
Fri 26	Tottenham Hotspur
Tue 30	Salford City (PJT)
SEPTEMBER	
Sat 3	MANCHESTER UNITED
Sat 10	Chelsea
Mon 19	Leicester City
Tue 20	Rochdale (PJT)
OCTOBER	
Sat 1	ARSENAL
Sat 8	WOLVES
Sat 15	Crystal Palace
Tue 18	Accrington Stanley (PJT)
Sat 22	EVERTON
Sun 30	West Ham United
NOVEMBER	
Sun 6	FULHAM
JANUARY	
Sun 8	TOTTENHAM
Sat 14	Manchester United
Sun 22	CRYSTAL PALACE
Fri 27	Wolves
FEBRUARY	
Sun 12	Manchester City
Sun 19	CHELSEA
Sat 25	LEICESTER CITY
MARCH	
Fri 3	Arsenal
Fri 17	Blackburn Rovers
APRIL	
Mon 3	BRIGHTON
Sun 16	Everton
Sat 22	WEST HAM UNITED
Fri 28	Fulham

Home games in caps
PJT: Papa Johns Trophy
PLIC: Premier League International Cup


Keeper Harvey Davies

UNDER 18S FIXTURES 2022/23

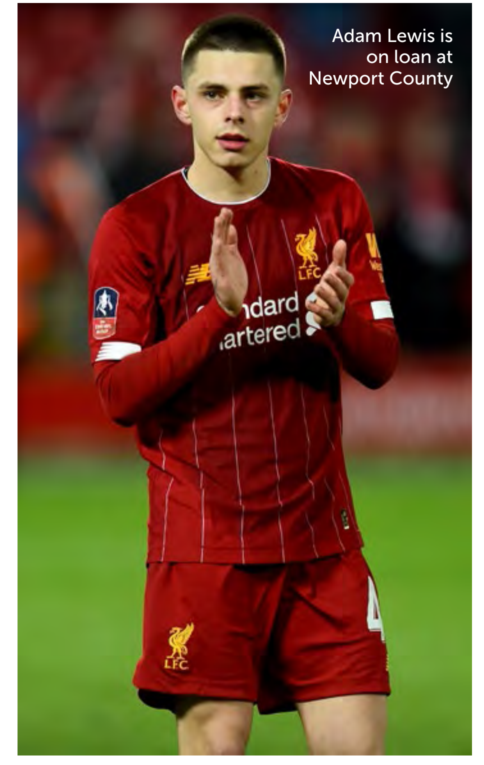
AUGUST	
Sat 13	MIDDLESBROUGH
Sat 20	Leeds United
Sat 27	MANCHESTER UNITED
SEPTEMBER	
Sat 10	Newcastle United
Sat 17	Manchester City
OCTOBER	
Sat 1	NOTTM FOREST
Sat 15	Blackburn Rovers
Sat 22	STOKE CITY
Sat 29	Wolves
NOVEMBER	
Sat 26	Everton
DECEMBER	
Sat 3	SUNDERLAND
Sat 17	Derby County
JANUARY	
Sat 7	BLACKBURN
Sat 14	EVERTON
Sat 21	Manchester United
Sat 28	Middlesbrough
FEBRUARY	
Sat 11	DERBY COUNTY
Sat 25	MAN CITY
MARCH	
Sat 4	Nottingham Forest
Sat 18	Sunderland
APRIL	
Sat 1	WOLVES
Fri 14	LEEDS UNITED
Sat 22	Stoke City
Sat 29	NEWCASTLE



Anderson Arroyo goes to Alaves



Marcelo Pitaluga will be saving for the Silkmen



Adam Lewis is on loan at Newport County

NEW & IMPROVED

As the Reds step up preparations for their return to the top-flight, we put the spotlight on four new signings and six fans' favourites who have signed new deals with the club



Words: William Hughes

EMMA KOIVISTO
Position: defender/midfielder
Born: Helsinki, 25.09.1994
Shirt no.2

The first of Liverpool FC Women's summer signings, Emma put pen to paper before heading off to represent Finland at Euro 2022.

The 27-year-old Finland international joined the Reds after 18 months with fellow Barclays Women's Super League club Brighton & Hove Albion Women. She previously enjoyed three successful years with BK Hacken in Gothenburg, Sweden, where she left as a league champion, a feat she also achieved with FC Honka in her homeland.

A graduate of Florida State University in the USA, she's a long-established international and started all three of Finland's games at last month's Euros.

"I'm quite a versatile player," she explains. "I'm an attacking-minded full-back, I like to go forward. Hopefully I can help the team there and defend as well.

"I hope I can bring some experience from the WSL. I've played in the league for one-and-a-half years now, while I also have some international experience with the Finland national team.

"I feel really honoured to be able to play for Liverpool. Me and my brother, we used to be big Liverpool fans growing up. Sami Hyypia, a Finnish legend, was playing for the club when we were kids. So I'm really excited to come to Liverpool and experience something new."

LFC Women manager Matt Beard believes Koivisto will offer plenty of options to his team: "First of all, Emma will bring versatility as she has played in numerous positions while at Brighton. Left-back, right-back, she's played wide, but we see her best position as the wing-back role.

"She's a good one-v-one defender, technically she's very good on the ball, very athletic, quick and can get up and down. I just think that with the way we play, she's going to fit in perfectly with her attacking attributes."

DID YOU KNOW? *Emma is the first Finn to play for Liverpool FC Women in the WSL era, although Finnish legends Sami Hyypia and Jari Litmanen have represented the men's team. Her arrival means the women's team will have employed players from all five of the main Nordic countries. She follows Katrin Omarrsdottir (Iceland), Ingrid Ryland and Line Smorsgard (Norway), Louise Fors and Emma Lundh (Sweden) plus Amalie Thestrup (Denmark).*



GILLY FLAHERTY

Position: defender
Born: London, 24.08.1991
Shirt no.25

Also joining the ranks ahead of Liverpool's return to the Women's Super League is experienced centre-back Gilly. The 30-year-old joins after four years as captain of West Ham United Women.

She had previously enjoyed hugely successful spells with Arsenal and Chelsea Women, collecting a host of league and cup triumphs. She also worked alongside Reds manager Matt Beard during his time at West Ham and they took the club to the Women's FA Cup final in 2019.

Matt Beard: "The gap from the Championship to the Women's Super League is getting bigger every year. I've worked with Gilly before and I followed her career when she was at Arsenal and Chelsea. She's a fantastic defender, a great person. She's a leader and I'm looking forward to working with her again.

"We had a great working relationship at West Ham and I think we're really lucky that she decided to move on and she's chosen Liverpool."

Gilly adds: "It feels great to be here. "It only took one chat with Beardy and Russ [Fraser, LFCW's managing director] to know how exciting it is to be here and the vision of the club.

"I'm so grateful to be here and get the chance to join the family. I've got a lot of respect for Beardy and he's one of the managers who has got the best out of me during my career.

"I've played in the WSL for more than ten years now, I've got a lot of experience in it and I know what it takes to win. I know what to expect and that's why Beardy has brought me here, to give that experience to any players who haven't had it yet and be a leader alongside the many leaders he's already got at the club. The WSL gets harder every year; it's going to be tough, but it's what you want as a professional player."

DID YOU KNOW? *Gilly has scored twice against Liverpool in the colours of Chelsea. She netted in a 2-1 WSL win for the Blues at Widnes in the 2016 season and then in an emphatic 7-0 victory during a Spring Series fixture at Kingsmeadow in 2017.*

SHANICE VAN DE SANDEN

Position: winger
Born: Utrecht, 02.10.1992
Shirt no.19

Flying winger Shanice is back with the Reds after enjoying plenty of success with Lyon and VfL Wolfsburg. After leaving Liverpool in 2016, she won three UEFA Women's Champions Leagues as well as three French titles and two French cups.

In her international career Van de Sanden is closing in on 100 caps for the Netherlands, with whom she won the Women's Euros in 2017, a year she was also shortlisted for the FIFA Women's Player of the Year.

She linked up again with forward Ashley Hodson, who remains from her previous LFC Women spell before Ash's loan move to Birmingham City, and she was also a team-mate of fellow winger Yana Daniels at FC Twente.

Van de Sanden says: "It feels amazing to be back. Being back in Liverpool, seeing the girls, meeting the coach, it means a lot to me. In my head I was already waiting for them to come back into the first league, I was following them everywhere.

"Coming back, it's crazy and the ambitions of the club for this team mean a lot to me. A lot has changed since I left. I didn't know Matt at all but after my first phone-call I knew I'd sign for Liverpool.

"I really love the girls here and I've seen that they are working for each other, fighting for each other, they fight for the coach. That was the feeling I got from outside and now I am here I have the same feeling."

Liverpool fans used to regale her with a song to the tune of The Chordettes' *Mr Sandman*. "It's going to be fantastic to have Shanice back," said Beard. "My conversations with her about coming back were just brilliant. She's a character, she's gone away from here and played for two of the biggest clubs in Europe, she knows the club, she knows the league, she knows the city.

"We're both really excited to work together but also excited to bring her back. She's coming back home basically. The fans will know she's an exciting winger, she can get at people, she's quick. The way we play, I think she's going to fit right in.

"It's another experienced player, another player who's played at the top, top level and we have ambitions to do well in this division."

DID YOU KNOW? *Shanice played 29 times during her first spell with the club and scored four goals. In the 2016 season, she netted the winner on her home debut against Birmingham City as the Reds won a WSL clash 1-0 at Widnes. She was also on target home and away against Arsenal in that debut season. Her final Liverpool goal to date came in a 2-1 FA Cup fifth-round win over Everton at Widnes in March 2017.*











Official Men's Grooming Supplier to Liverpool Football Club in UK

CALM AS YOU LIKE

TRY OUR NEW SENSITIVE PRO RANGE WITH HEMP SEED OIL

* Source ©2020 Nielsen data, Value & Units, Men's Skincare, Shave, Shower, and deodorants (client defined) 52 w/e 26.12.20 (GB Total Coverage + NI Multiples)



EARTHA CUMINGS

Position: goalkeeper
Born: Scotland, 11.06.1999
Shirt no.21

Scotland international Eartha has bolstered the Reds' goalkeeping pool ahead of the new season. The 23-year-old started her career with Scottish Women's Premier League side Spartans before spending two seasons with both Bristol City and Charlton Athletic.

Her debut season with the Addicks saw her named Players' Player of the Year, while in May she was named Charlton's Player of the Year after an impressive campaign that included nine clean-sheets and a run of almost 15 hours without conceding a goal in all competitions.

Edinburgh-born Cumings also won her first international cap for Scotland in February of this year, helping her nation to a penalty shoot-out victory over Hungary in the Pinatar Cup in Spain following a goalless draw.

She joins the group led by goalkeeping coach Joe Potts, which includes last season's Championship Golden Glove winner Rachael Laws with Rylee Foster currently rehabilitating from injury. England Under-21s international Charlotte Clarke has joined West Bromwich Albion Women on a season-long loan.

Matt Beard: "We were impressed with Eartha's athleticism, her shot-stopping was unbelievable and her distribution was good.

"Her performances have got her recognition with her national team as well. Pottsie was really keen, he'd been monitoring her all season, and the two games we played against Charlton last year she really impressed in those games. At that point she was at the top of our list and we were able to get the deal done."

The keeper adds: "It feels amazing to have joined such a huge club and I'm really excited.

"I was super- keen as soon as I heard there was a chance of me coming here. I just want to help the team wherever I can, settle in and help the squad. I'm really looking forward to working with the goalkeepers who are already here.

"Obviously Rachael had a great season last year and Charlotte came in partway through the season and did really well stepping up to a higher level. I'm really looking forward to pulling on such an historic shirt."

DID YOU KNOW? *Eartha kept a clean-sheet as Charlton held the Reds to a goalless draw at Prenton Park in March of this year. It was one of only four occasions in which Liverpool failed to find the net during their 2021/22 FA Women's Championship campaign.*

RACHAEL LAWS

Position: goalkeeper
Born: Newcastle, 05.11.1990
Shirt no.1
LFCW apps/goals: 51/0

Matt Beard: "Lawsy was a leader on and off the pitch last year. Her performances were fantastic. When we needed Lawsy, she stood up tall and made the big saves in some big games in some big moments.

"Her distribution is the best I've ever worked with in a goalkeeper. That's so important in modern football. She can play short, she can play long, her composure and calmness on the ball is a game-changer for us."



MEGAN CAMPBELL

Position: defender
Born: Drogheda, 28.06.1993
Shirt no.28
LFCW apps/goals: 15/0

Matt Beard: "Meg had a frustrating first half of the season last year with the injury, but she worked really hard to get back to fitness. She then played an integral part in the push for promotion. Her throw-in is so dangerous, but she's a very talented player away from that and she's fully deserving of this new contract."



BRING. IT. ON.

YOU'LL NEVER WALK ALONE
LIVERPOOL FOOTBALL CLUB
EST·1892
Women

2022/23 SEASON TICKETS

Watch the Reds in The FA Women's Super League



Junior £35 // Adult £60 // Family £140

Buy Now:
www.liverpoolfc.com/women-tickets

WALK ON



MELISSA LAWLEY

Position: winger
Born: Kidderminster, 28.06.1993
Shirt no.28
LFCW apps/goals: 68/9

Matt Beard: "Mel was outstanding last year. A great character, on the ball fantastic. I love the way she can just slow the play down, drop the shoulder, beat a player and turn defence into attack on the counter. I think Mel's coming to the peak of her career now, and I'm excited to see what she can do back in the Super League."



CERI HOLLAND

Position: midfielder
Born: Steeton, 12.12.1997
Shirt no.18
LFCW apps/goals: 35/3

Matt Beard: "Ceri came on leaps-and-bounds last year. Tactically she was challenged at the start of the season and she came through with flying colours. She's very versatile and can cover numerous positions for us. I think her athleticism and her strength will cause lots of midfield players and defenders problems in the Women's Super League."

LEIGHANNE ROBE

Position: defender
Born: Cambridge, 28.06.1993 Shirt no.3
LFCW apps/goals: 86/3

Matt Beard: "Robey had a great season [in 2021/22]. She's a great one-v-one defender, very rarely gets beat. I'm really pleased with her progression over the year on the tactical side. The big thing we want to create again this year is the competition for places. We've got some fantastic defenders at the club and it'll be difficult for me to pick a team this year. Robey deserves a new deal and I'm really looking forward to seeing how she kicks on this year."



NIAMH FAHEY

Position: defender
Born: Galway, 13.10.1987
Shirt no.5
LFCW apps/goals: 90/8

Matt Beard: "Niamh was outstanding last year, a great leader on and off the pitch. Her performances last season, even in the big games, were fantastic. Her experience will be something we will need next season.

"She's a great character, technically she's a very gifted football player and a very, very good defender."



LFCW BARCLAYS WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE FIXTURES 2022/23

SEPTEMBER		
11	Reading	2pm
18	CHELSEA	6.45pm
25	EVERTON	6.45pm
OCTOBER		
16	Tottenham Hotspur	2pm
23	ARSENAL	2pm
30	Manchester City	2pm
NOVEMBER		
6	ASTON VILLA	2pm
20	Brighton & Hove Albion	2pm
DECEMBER		
4	WEST HAM UNITED	2pm
11	LEICESTER CITY	2pm
JANUARY		
14	Manchester United	12pm
22	Chelsea	2pm
FEBRUARY		
5	READING	2pm
MARCH		
5	Arsenal	2pm
12	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	2pm
26	Everton	1pm
APRIL		
2	West Ham United	3pm
23	BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION	2pm
30	Leicester City	3pm
MAY		
7	MANCHESTER CITY	2pm
21	Aston Villa	2pm
28	MANCHESTER UNITED	2pm

* Home games in capitals; fixtures subject to change

SUMMER OF LOVE

Words: Chris McLoughlin

It's late June, I'm sitting on an air-conditioned bus on a scorching Mallorcan afternoon heading out of Palma when a group of local teenagers sitting in the back seat start having a heated discussion.

I only know a little Spanish – his name is Luis Garcia – but two words from their rather loud conversation are very familiar: Salah and Mane. Exactly what they were saying I'll never know, but it was an unwelcome reminder that Sadio was now a Bayern Munich player and Mo's future remained in doubt with a new contract unsigned. Well, what else is there to think about anyway when you're holidaying on Jürgen Klopp's favourite island?

Imagining Liverpool without one of them is hard enough so when July arrived, the news that emerged from the Greek island of Mykonos was arguably better than hearing of a new signing.

"Liverpool FC are delighted to announce Mohamed Salah has signed a new long-term contract with the club," read a club statement. "The forward, who was named the FWA Footballer of the Year and the PFA Players' Player of the Year for 2021/22 after helping Jürgen Klopp's side to a domestic cup double, has committed his future to the Reds."



Buzzing! Relieved! And how good was it seeing the photos of Mo looking all smiley and relaxed in his Liverpool shirt as he gazed out across the Aegean Sea with his contract signed? Call me old-fashioned but when you've got a lad who has scored 156 goals for the Reds and has a better goals-per-game ratio than Ian Rush I'd say keeping hold of him is absolutely outstanding news.

July's opening day was also enjoyable for three young Reds – Jarrell Quansah, Luke Chambers and Harvey Davies – as they won the UEFA Euro U19s Championship final with a 3-1 success against Israel in Slovakia. The word from my man in Trnava is that centre-back Quansah, who scored in the semi-final and got an assist in the final, had an outstanding tournament.

Speaking of outstanding young talent, Harvey Elliott had news for us the following day when he announced he was swapping his 67 squad number for no19 as it used to be worn by one of his boyhood heroes. And I don't mean Javier Manquillo.

"I remember having a Sadio Mane shirt with the number 19 on it as a kid, so to be able to wear it after him, it's a great pleasure," Harvey told liverpoolfc.com. "At the end of the day a number is just a number, but it's just nice to have a lower number." Which is true, but who is Trent Alexander-Arnold going to sit next to in the dressing-room now, Harvey?

One new face getting a seat next to Joel Matip, after taking the no28 shirt, is Fabio Carvalho, who officially completed his move from Fulham to Liverpool on 3 July. "Once you hear that Liverpool are interested, there's only one thought in your mind, which is to join them," said the Lisbon-born Londoner. "Hopefully I can achieve big things."

Carvalho joined up with 18 of his new team-mates the following day as the Reds returned to the AXA Training Centre for the first session of pre-season training and

medical tests. Judging by the photos, most of the lads spent their holidays in the gym rather than at the all-inclusive buffet, just like the rest of us. Right?

There was, of course, no Divock Origi and on 5 July it was confirmed that Belgium's greatest-ever export had completed his transfer to AC Milan. He admitted that playing in the San Siro for the Reds had persuaded him to go there and given big Div's record in home derbies, Internazionale might as well write off the Milan derby on 3 September now. Although is that a collective sigh of relief I can hear across Stanley Park?

Ben Woodburn was also on the move, swapping the Anfield Kop for Deepdale's Bill Shankly Kop by signing for Preston North End, while the 10th Anne Williams Golf Day – in memory of the Hillsborough campaigner – at Prescot and Huyton Golf Club raised funds for the Inclusive Hub at Kirkdale Community Centre with Kostas Tsimikas generously donating his signed FA Cup final shirt for the post-round raffle and auction.

Joe Gomez was signing something rather different a few days later: a new long-term contract with the Reds, thus ending speculation that Stevie G wanted to take him to Aston Villa or that he might be part of Eddie Howe's Toon revolution in Newcastle.

It's another shrewd bit of business by LFC as how many other centre-backs can you think of in the Premier League who can play just as well at right-back or left-back?

Liverpool Women boss Matt Beard was getting players to put pen to paper as Ceri Holland and Leighanne Robe signed new deals and Finnish international Emma Koivisto arrived from Brighton.

There was also an old new face in the LFC Under-21s team that drew 1-1 with Caernarfon Town as player-coach Jay Spearing got a run out in midfield, his first appearance for the Reds since the 2012 FA Cup final. A summer arrival from Tranmere, he must still qualify for the U21s as he's two-and-a-half years younger than James Milner, who has the fitness levels of a 23-year-old.

And so it was off to Asia for the first post-pandemic summer tour, but not before Colombian defender Anderson Arroyo had joined Alaves on loan and Jordan Henderson had been to Buckingham Palace to receive his MBE, for services to charity, from Prince William.

Rumours that Hendo shuffled his feet before raising the gong above his head as the Queen fired ticker-tape from a cannon remain unconfirmed, but what can be confirmed is that the welcome Liverpool's touring party received in both Thailand and Singapore was nothing short of sensational.









Fanatical Liverpool supporters in both countries treated the Reds like the European Royalty that they are. "It's great to be back in Thailand," said CEO Billy Hogan. "The reception that we just had at the airport was absolutely incredible – thousands of people waiting for us upon touchdown and then when we got to the hotel, another group of thousands of people there. It's been terrific, great to be back."

Neco Williams wasn't with the touring party, instead completing a permanent transfer to Nottingham Forest, while young left-back Owen Beck caught a plane to Portugal instead to link up with Familicao on loan, prompting questions about if anyone else know it was national 'Welsh Full-backs On The Move Day'. Academy defender Tom Clayton was also off to pastures new after signing for Swindon Town.

Back to Bangkok and ahead of wearing it for the first time against Manchester United in the Rajamangala Stadium, Liverpool unveiled their new away kit featuring a dizzying design inspired by the city's vibrant dance music scene of the 1990s.

Unfortunately the Reds' performance on the pitch was nothing to rave about as they went down to a 4-0 defeat with defensive errors and missed opportunities proving costly as Klopp fielded three different sides for 30-minute spells with 32 players making an appearance.



It was essentially a fitness exercise, but that didn't stop the anonymous, attention-seeking, live-for-likes social-media banter accounts from mocking Darwin Nunez for missing a good chance late on. Would you like fries with that when you're eating your words, lads?

"The most important thing after the game, even when I hate losing, everybody has 30 minutes in their legs now," said Klopp afterwards. "For some, on the third day of training, that's really harsh, but that's the life of a professional football player. So now we can work with that and will work with that."

Diogo Jota missed the match after



aggravating a hamstring injury in training while new-boy Calvin Ramsay didn't even make the plane to Thailand after his medical picked up an unknown injury that will need time to resolve. Let's hope they're both back soon.

Liverpool FC will be working with Standard Chartered for an additional four years after the partnership between the two was extended until 2027 and Klopp might soon be able to graze sheep outside the Liver Buildings (although not on the day of a Liverpool trophy parade, as it gets chocka down the Strand and Pier Head) after being nominated for the Freedom of the City of Liverpool.



While the Reds were arriving in Singapore, the FA Community Shield ticket ballot result was leaving most of us on a longer waiting-list than for your average NHS dentist, although with Liverpool only getting 12,055 tickets for the King Power Stadium it was hardly a surprise given that is less than Anfield's 12,850-capacity Kop holds.

At least the Reds were back to winning ways against Crystal Palace in Singapore's National Stadium with Jordan Henderson and Mo Salah on the scoresheet. Losing Alex Oxalde-Chamberlain to a hamstring injury, however, was a blow and with Alisson joining Caoimhin Kelleher on the injured-list it looks like Adrian and Harvey Davies will be in goal for the rest of pre-season.

"It was obviously really special for me," said Scouse goalie Davies. "First game I've played so now the debut is done. It was nice to do it out here in Singapore in front of all these fans as well. It's a really proud moment for me and my family."

Harvey signed a new deal not long after and is now the only Davies in the Liverpool squad after central defender Ben Davies signed for Rangers without ever making his first-team debut. Meanwhile, one of the lads who kept Big Ben out, Rhys Williams, will be hoping life's a beach





at Blackpool during a season-long loan spell. I'd say it's a tram-endous move for Rhys to illuminate his talent, but I prom-ised not to.

In other news, there was a towering development (what?) at Anfield on 21 July when a 300-tonne roof truss was lifted into place by two 600-tonne cranes as part of the ongoing Anfield Road end expansion. It took 30 engineers 12 hours to complete and then follows the small matter of connecting the towers, haunches and truss with a mere 25,000 bolts.

Wouldn't fancy counting them to check they're all there and later that night it was getting tricky counting how many goals Nunez was scoring after he came off the bench in



Leipzig and found the net four times. Salah had given the Redmen a 1-0 lead against Germany's Red Bulls when he generously allowed Darwin the chance to take a penalty to get himself off the mark.

He slotted it home and then proved his words in this magazine last month – "I find that when one goes in, more follow" – to also be spot-on by scoring another three from open play, taking his tally to four in a 5-0 win.

Had you checked underneath a rock that night the chances are the lesser-spotted critic would have scurried away further into the undergrowth.

"Mo, I'm not sure if it's in his new contract with a clause or just being generous like hell, gives Darwin the penalty," laughed Klopp after the match. "And Darwin, the box of Pandora was opened."

Sad news followed a day later when it was announced that former owner, chairman and honorary life president David Moores had died at the age of 76.

As Alan Hansen once put it: "I've always said that the great chairmen in football are the ones who give managers time and money. David Moores has done both." RIP DM.

Fabinho's revelation that all his team-mates are now calling him 'Flaco', to avoid confusion with shouts of 'Fab' for Fabio Carvalho in training, made me think of Neil Ruddock calling Jason McAteer 'Dave' because Rob Jones had already been named 'Trigger'. But if it's revelations you so desire then immediately ask your local bookshop to take all your money in exchange for *Intensity* by Pep Lijnders.

It tells the behind-the-scenes story of Liverpool's 2021/22 season in incredible detail. "I truly hope people will be even prouder of LFC after reading it," said LFC's assistant-manager. "The tricky thing was that I didn't know how things would end while I was writing it…but you guys know how it ends! And you know what's cool? We didn't change or add anything. So, if you read something stupid it was stupid, and if you read something 'wow', it was 'wow'. Jürgen read the entire book and loved it." Hell of a review, that.

The Anfield stadium tour is much-loved too after it won a 2022 Travellers' Choice Award from Tripadvisor, putting it in the top 10 per cent of worldwide attractions with around 235,000 visitors living the dream in the past year.

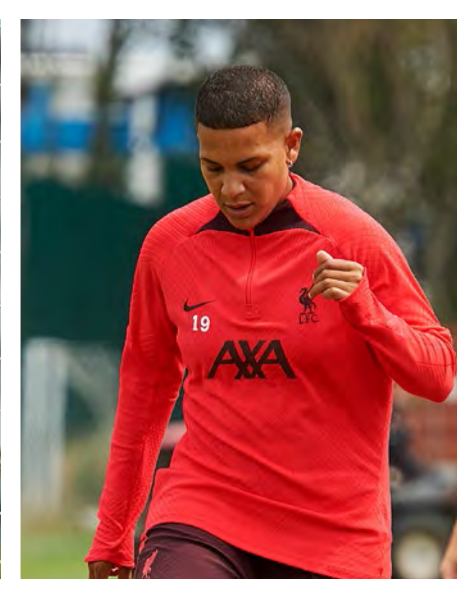
Academy left-back Luke Chambers is getting closer to living his dream after signing a new contract, but the Reds could only dream of scoring against Salzburg after doing











everything but hit the net during a 1-0 defeat to Red Bull's Austrian branch of football clubs in the midst of a week of hard graft at a training camp in Saalfelden.

Scouse Greek Tsimikas missed out with a minor injury, but deputy left-back Milner played with a beard after being convinced by Hendo and Robbo to grow one. If Milly ends up looking like a Yorkshire Rubeus Hagrid it's all their fault, although with Gryffindor sporting Bradford City's colours it seems an unlikely outcome for a lad from Leeds.

Liverpool FC Women's return to the top-flight saw more squad-strengthening with Gilly Flaherty, Eartha Cumings and Shanice van de Sanden all brought in and Rachael Laws and Lucy Parry penning new deals, and our Under-21s – who have replaced the U23s in a youth-level restructure in case you missed it – won 3-1 at Kidderminster with Cain, Clarkson and Cannonier scoring.

Ahead of the Community Shield in the traditional setting of, er, Leicester, Joe Gomez revealed that he's lost one. Off the back of his shirt, that is, by switching squad numbers from 12 to 2. Which must have made the aforementioned Rob Jones smile as he famously failed to score in 243 games for LFC, mostly wearing the no2 shirt, and Gomez is only 101 appearances behind him without finding the net. Pressure's on to break that duck, Joe.

The Reds had no problem scoring in front of a brilliantly loud travelling Kop at the King Power Stadium as Manchester City were beaten 3-1 in the Community Shield, giving Jordan Henderson a seventh different trophy to lift as Liverpool skipper.

You can read all about it earlier in this magazine, but the stoppage-time celebrations when Nunez made it 3-1 on his debut and ripped his shirt off like a Uruguayan Khal Drogo running towards his new Khaleesi, was a sight to behold. So too was Erling Haaland missing a late sitter, prompting raucous 'Nunez! Nunez! Nunez!' chants from a joyous Liverpool end.

July finished with a very young Reds side losing 3-0 to RC Strasbourg Alsace at Anfield, Tyler Morton admitting it



was "a massive learning-curve for us youngsters," but it didn't take away from the thrill of seeing Liverpool beat Man City to a piece of silverware 24 hours earlier with Trent Alexander-Arnold and Mo Salah also netting.

To some it might just be a big shiny plate, but that Community Shield success presents the Reds with an even bigger opportunity in season 2022/23. Coming along for the ride as Jürgen and the boys try to win an historic quintuple?

Thought so…



WHAT'S ON

AUG/SEPT

GET READY FOR AN ANFIELD TREBLE AND A COUPLE OF DERBY DATES

The Reds' busy opening month includes three games at Anfield, starting with the visit of Crystal Palace on Monday 15 August.

As well as hosting Patrick Vieira's men, Liverpool will also welcome promoted AFC Bournemouth to L4 for a 3pm kick-off on Saturday 27th, then Newcastle United on Wednesday 31st (KO 8pm).

In addition to that trio of home fixtures the Reds also face two tasty early-season derby dates at North West rivals Manchester United and Everton.

They make the trip to Old Trafford for another Monday-night game on the 22nd of the month as they face a United side managed by Erik ten Hag in league action for the first time. The Reds will be seeking to make amends for the 4-0 defeat in last month's pre-season game in Bangkok.

Jürgen Klopp's men start September by making the short trip to Goodison Park for the 241st Merseyside derby. The Saturday-lunchtime fixture kicks off at 12.30pm.

Hot on the heels of the clash with Frank Lampard's Blues comes the opening group game of the 2022/23 UEFA Champions League. Turn the page for more.



AUG/SEPT

WHAT'S ON

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE DRAW

The draw for the group stages of this season's UEFA Champions League will take place at 11am on Thursday 25 August. The Reds will discover the identity of their three opponents as they bid to reach the final for a fourth time in six seasons.

Due to the FIFA World Cup in November and December, all group-stage games will be completed by early November with the first games taking place in the midweek of 6/7 September and the second round of fixtures a week later.

The final will take place at the Ataturk Olympic Stadium in Istanbul, home of the Turkish national team. The venue famously hosted Liverpool's 2005 comeback victory over AC Milan, the 'Miracle of Istanbul'. The city was initially selected to host the 2020 final, but that was moved to Lisbon due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently the 2021 showpiece was due to take place in Istanbul, only for that also to be relocated to Porto to allow fans of each team to attend.

ALL THOSE YEARS AGO...



BIRTHDAYS

Djibril Cisse 41 on 12 August

Rylee Foster 24 on 13 August

Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain 29 on 15 August

Bolo Zenden 46 on 15 August

Barry Venison 58 on 16 August

Steve McMahon 61 on 20 August

Michael Thomas 55 on 24 August

Didi Hamann 49 on 27 August

Fabio Carvalho 20 on 30 August

Rhiannon Roberts 32 on 30 August

Pepe Reina 40 on 31 August

Alan Kennedy 68 on 31 August



ANNIVERSARIES

56 years since a Roger Hunt goal won the FA Charity Shield v Everton on 13 August 1966.

16 years since the Reds defeated Chelsea 2-1 to win the Charity Shield at Cardiff on 13 August 2006.

51 years since the club's PA announcer George Sephton made his debut as the 'Voice of Anfield' on 14 August 1971.

51 years since forward Kevin Keegan scored on LFC debut on 14 August 1971.

18 years since Xabi Alonso and Luis Garcia joined Liverpool on 20 August 2004.

3 years since Jordan Henderson captained the Reds for the 100th time on 24 August 2019.

And it's 45 years since Kenny Dalglish joined Liverpool from Celtic on 10 August 1977....

In May 1977 the Reds won the European Cup for the first time but manager Bob Paisley was handed an immediate problem: replacing attacking talisman Kevin Keegan who was leaving for Hamburg SV.

Celtic forward Kenny Dalglish was the main name in the frame. Paisley had contacted Celtic manager Jock Stein a year earlier when he heard that Dalglish was considering a new challenge. Stein said the player was going nowhere but that Paisley would be the first to know if he couldn't talk Dalglish out of leaving.

Despite his disappointment at losing a player of such calibre, Stein kept his promise. After offers of £300,000, £330,000 and £360,000 were rejected, the Reds tried their luck with a bid of £400,000.

Stein still stood firm but let slip that another ten per cent could see an agreement reached. LFC chairman John Smith sanctioned the deal with the Reds agreeing to pay a then-record transfer fee between two British clubs of £440,000

"This really was the offer I could not refuse," Dalglish, then 26, said after completing his move south of the border: "There was no way I could turn down such a fabulous offer although I am very sad to be leaving Celtic. But I am happy to be going to such a great club as Liverpool."

The record-breaking deal proved to be an absolute steal with King Kenny illuminating Anfield and elsewhere with his dazzling displays.

FIXTURES 2022/23

L.F.C.

Date	Opponent	H/A/N	KO	TV	SCORE	SCORERS
JULY						
30	Manchester City (Community Shield)	N	5pm	itv	3-1	Alexander-Arnold, Salah (pen), Nunez
AUGUST						
6	Fulham	A	12.30pm	BT		
15	**Crystal Palace**	**H**	**8pm**	**Sky**		
22	Manchester United	A	8pm	Sky		
27	**Bournemouth**	**H**	**3pm**			
31	**Newcastle United**	**H**	**8pm**	**BT**		
SEPTEMBER						
3	Everton	A	12.30pm	BT		
6/7	UEFA Champions League M1					
10	**Wolves**	**H**	**3pm**			
13/14	UEFA Champions League M2					
18	Chelsea	A	4.30pm	Sky		
OCTOBER						
1	**Brighton**	**H**	**3pm**			
4/5	UEFA Champions League M3					
9	Arsenal	A	4.30pm	Sky		
11/12	UEFA Champions League M4					
16	**Manchester City**	**H**	**4.30pm**	**Sky**		
19	**West Ham**	**H**	**7.30pm**	**AP**		
22	Nottm Forest	A	12.30pm	BT		
25/26	UEFA Champions League M5					
30	**Leeds United**	**H**	**2pm**	**Sky**		
NOVEMBER						
1/2	UEFA Champions League M6					
5	Tottenham	A	3pm			
8/9	Carabao Cup 3					
12	**Southampton**	**H**	**3pm**			
DECEMBER						
20/21	Carabao Cup 4					
26	Aston Villa	A	3pm			
31	**Leicester City**	**H**	**3pm**			
JANUARY						
2	Brentford	A	3pm			
7	Emirates FA Cup 3					
10/11	Carabao Cup Q-F					
14	Brighton	A	3pm			
21	**Chelsea**	**H**	**3pm**			
25	Carabao Cup S-F 1					
28	Emirates FA Cup 4					
FEBRUARY						
1	Carabao Cup S-F 2					
4	Wolves	A	3pm			
11	**Everton**	**H**	**3pm**			
14/15	UEFA Champions League R16 1					
18	Newcastle	A	3pm			
21/22	UEFA Champions League R16 1					
25	Crystal Palace	A	3pm			
26	Carabao Cup final	N				
MARCH						
1	Emirates FA Cup 5					
4	**Manchester United**	**H**	**3pm**			
7/8	UEFA Champions League R16 2					
11	Bournemouth	A	3pm			
14/15	UEFA Champions League R16 2					
18	**Fulham**	**H**	**3pm**			
18	Emirates FA Cup Q-F					
APRIL						
1	Manchester City	A	3pm			
8	**Arsenal**	**H**	**3pm**			
11/12	UEFA Champions League Q-F 1					
16	Leeds United	A	3pm			
18/19	UEFA Champions League Q-F 2					
22	**Nottm Forest**	**H**	**3pm**			
22/23	Emirates FA Cup S-F	N				
25	West Ham	A	7.45pm			
29	**Tottenham**	**H**	**3pm**			
MAY						
6	**Brentford**	**H**	**3pm**			
9/10	UEFA Champions League S-F 1					
13	Leicester City	A	3pm			
16/17	UEFA Champions League S-F 2					
20	**Aston Villa**	**H**	**3pm**			
28	Southampton	A	4pm			
JUNE						
3	Emirates FA Cup final	N				
10	UEFA Champions League final	N				

All fixtures are subject to change



WHAT'S IN



ADULTS RETRO 1982 HOME SHIRT
£55



ADULTS RETRO 2005 ISTANBUL SHIRT
£55



ADULTS RETRO CANDY HOME SHIRT
£55



MENS WHITE YNWA KAGOOL
£45

STORE

NEW SEASON, NEW LOOKS – SOME OF THE LATEST APPAREL AVAILABLE FROM OFFICIAL LIVERPOOL FC STORES AND ONLINE



WOMENS WHITE YNWA OVERSIZED SWEAT
£35

MENS BLACK TRICOT TRACK TOP
£50

WOMENS WHITE YNWA OVERSIZED TEE
£22

MENS BLACK YNWA CREW SWEAT
£35

MENS BLACK MARBLE PRINT TEE
£28

MENS BLACK YNWA POCKET TEE
£25

Shop for all your Liverpool FC essentials in Official Club Stores and at liverpoolfc.com/store and for more details follow @LFCRetail on Twitter, Instagram and TikTok! Terms and conditions apply.



NEIL MELLOR

We have a brilliant football team which will compete for every trophy going and that is something to get excited about

The natural instinct of any football supporter is to hope your club signs ready-made superstars. At Liverpool, Jürgen Klopp signs top-class talents and turns them into world-class stars. He did it with Mo Salah, he did it with Sadio Mane and now he will try to do it with Darwin Nunez.

Nunez is an outstanding talent with lots of potential, but he isn't that world-class player yet. Under the management of Klopp, and with the platform Liverpool gives him, I think the 23-year-old can become that world-class player.

After Liverpool's Community Shield win against Manchester City, Virgil van Dijk spoke about how difficult Nunez is to play against. The Premier League is the most physical league in Europe and you have to be able to handle that physicality, so it was good to hear one of the best centre-halves in the world say Nunez is an absolute handful.

If Virgil found him a handful when the Reds played Benfica, every other Premier League defender will find the same and that might mean Nunez attracts the attention of more than one opponent. That could free up more space for Salah or Luis Diaz, something Liverpool will benefit from.

The transfer fee the Reds paid for Nunez brings pressure with it. There is always pressure when you arrive at a big club for a huge fee, but where Nunez is fortunate is that he arrives in a team that already has Salah and Diaz.

Salah is one of the best attacking players in world football and Diaz has already shown how capable he is, so Nunez doesn't arrive with the same pressure as Romelu Lukaku did at Chelsea last season.

The expectation at Stamford Bridge was that Lukaku has to be the main man, but Nunez doesn't have to be the main man at Anfield because Salah already has that mantle. That gives him time to settle in and understand what the culture of Liverpool Football Club is all about.

At the same time we can't ignore the loss of Mane to Bayern Munich. Mane scored 20-plus goals in four of the last five seasons for Liverpool, so between Nunez and Diaz they must replace those goals.

Diogo Jota, when he's fit, will chip in with goals and so will Bobby Firmino, but because the attacking players have scored so many it has taken some heat off the midfield to contribute. With Mane gone, it would be helpful for a midfielder to contribute a goals-tally closer to double-figures.

It must also be remembered that it will take time for Nunez's team-mates to learn how he plays and how to get the best out of him. It'll be towards the end of the season when there is a much better understanding and it would be unfair to expect them to have fully gelled before the World Cup in November.

When they have learned each other's games, the service Nunez will get is going to be a dream for him. Both full-backs will deliver crosses from out wide, Thiago and Jordan Henderson are capable of playing passes for him to thrive off through the middle and then there's Diaz, Salah, Firmino or Jota playing alongside him.

That gives you assists from a variety of different areas, which makes it hard for the opposition to predict how Liverpool will service Nunez. You can't simply 'stop the service' to him because there is so much variety in the team and the early signs are good.

Nunez scored four against RB Leipzig in pre-season and could have had a hat-trick in the Community Shield with his goal created by a Salah cross and an Andy Robertson header. It shows the players are already thinking 'if we put the ball between the sticks, this lad will find space to get chances and score goals'.

We all saw how much the goal against City meant to him and there's no better way to start your Liverpool career than by scoring in a big game against your main rivals for silverware.

Some people don't view the Community Shield as a big trophy, but it was a massive confidence-boost to win it and for Nunez to score. It will have helped ease any extra pressure in his head and stop any thoughts of 'I need a goal'.

Only injuries will prevent the Premier League title race from being Liverpool v City again and the hope is that Nunez can swing another tight battle in our favour.

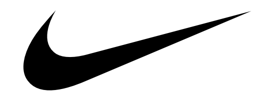
This group of consistent performers have a 'go again' mentality and with Klopp and Salah's futures secured and Nunez arriving, you simply have to enjoy this era of football as a Liverpool supporter. We have a brilliant football team who will compete for every trophy going and that is something to get excited about.



• Follow Neil on Twitter @NeilMellor33











WE ARE PLEASED TO RECOGNISE THE OFFICIAL PARTNERS OF LIVERPOOL FC









































WALK ON